

## THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

**Festival fare**  
British festivals from Aldeburgh to York

**Past master**  
Sir Stanley Matthews on the future for football

**Old Etonians**  
Philip Howard on the first public school museum

**Rugby special**  
Preview of Scotland v Wales and Ireland v France

## Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition daily prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mrs S Glen, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire. Portfolio list, page 20; how to play, information service, back page.

On Saturday £22,000 is available to be won - the £20,000 weekly prize as well as the daily prize of £2,000.

## Shultz keen to discuss Ortega offer

Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, says he is willing to meet President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua to see whether the peace plan to impose an arms freeze and send Cuban military advisers home will enhance prospects for a negotiated settlement in Central America.

Earlier story, page 7

## Rail chaos warning

Union leaders threatened chaos if British Rail "went over their heads" to cut jobs and "intimidate" their members after management started talks to advise staff of the possibility of more than 2,000 redundancies because of high freight costs.

## Chernenko seen

President Chernenko was shown in a five-minute sequence on Soviet television receiving credentials as a parliamentary deputy for the Russian Republic.

Earlier report, page 8

## EEC deadlock

European foreign ministers yesterday abandoned talks on Spanish entry to the EEC after two hours following disagreements over access of Spain's fishing fleet to Community waters.

## Graves found

Two graves found in Matabeleland are believed to contain the remains of two British, two Australian and two American tourists, kidnapped in Zimbabwe in July, 1982.



Win a 1985 BMW for a 1935 price Page 14

## Coe's cash plea

Sebastian Coe, a member of the Sports Council, believes Britain's Olympic sports need an extra £6 million over the next four years.

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Leading articles: Civil service guidelines; Germans.  
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Mr Henry Cabot Lodge

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# NUM delegates to be pressed for return without deal

● A miners' national delegate meeting, called for Sunday, is likely to consider an executive recommendation for a return to work without a peace deal.

● The Bishop of Durham, Dr David Jenkins, called on strikers to go back, saying they should accept the fact that they had lost.

● Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, has ordered a review of the police operation during the miners' strike as soon as the dispute ends.

By Paul Routledge and David Felton

The pit strike could end on Monday after the failure of peace contacts between the National Coal Board and National Union of Mineworkers yesterday and a fresh acceleration in the strikers' return to work.

But the mass "march back" would be without an agreement on the issue of closing uneconomic pits, the centre of the year-long conflict. There are now fears of a rash of spasmodic strikes when the Coal Board seeks to implement proposals to reduce capacity.

Executive members were privately predicting last night that it might be left to the individual areas to plan the return to work.

A national delegate of NUM conference has been called in London on Sunday. The most likely recommendation from the executive meeting earlier that day would be for a return to work without a peace deal.

Area conference and council meetings over the next two days in Yorkshire, Scotland, south Wales, Durham and Lancashire will seal the fate of proposals to end the dispute.

Some coalfield leaders are reluctant to go along with the "march back" strategy, but Mr Arthur Scargill, NUM president, indicated last night that

there was now no prospect of a negotiated settlement to end the strike.

Mr Scargill said after yesterday's executive meeting: "I want to make it perfectly clear on behalf of the NUM that it is the unanimous view of this executive, with right, left and centre views being expressed, that there is no way that this executive committee or the three full-time officials will ever be a party to signing a document that would result in the closure of pits, sacking of jobs and destruction of communities."

He was speaking in Sheffield after renewed telephone contacts with the coal board, offering new talks on the basis that the miners would accept the modified colliery review procedure accepted by the pit deputies union, Nacods, yielded on response. It was made clear to the union that the eight-point document put forward on February 20 was not negotiable.

The choices facing delegates are likely to be a return on a national basis, a return under rule 41, by each individual area as the dispute was called under that rule, or the delegates could reaffirm support for the strike and call for its continuation.

That last option was dismissed as unrealistic by militant

activists who believe it would lead to a massive return on Monday. An organized return would be an attempt to satisfy calls from some areas for action to unite the union and it could be timed to take place on or about the first-year anniversary of the strike, on March 12.

It is understood that leaders in south Wales will press their call for a return to work at Sunday's conference.

Union leaders are canvassing a return without a deal with one eye on the drift back, which yesterday saw another 1,114 strikers returning ten times more than on the same day last week. There are more than 95,000 miners at work, or 51 per cent of the total, according to the Board.

One of the strikers' most consistent champions, Dr David Jenkins, Bishop of Durham, called last night on them to go back. Speaking on a Channel 4 programme to be transmitted on March 16, he said: "I think it is a question of the miners simply accepting the fact that they have lost and accepting the terms which seem to me not unreasonable."

The coal board refused to comment last night.

Geoffrey Smith, page 4  
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## Strike policing to be reviewed

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A wide-ranging review of the police operation during the miners' strike, is to be ordered by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, as soon as the dispute ends.

The inquiry, to be conducted by Sir Lawrence Byford, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, will be aimed at drawing on the lessons of the strike for police actions in future potentially violent industrial disputes.

The review will cover all aspects of police activities including leadership, tactics employed, and the training required to deal with inflammable situations. It is the result of a tacit admission by ministers that although the operation has generally been regarded as a considerable success, there have been shortcomings which should be put right for the future.

It will result in new and published guidance being sent to chief constables on changes thought necessary for police techniques and response in future disputes.

The basis for the inquiry will be reports, collated through the Association of Chief Police Officers, from chief constables to Sir Lawrence on their operations during the dispute. The reports from police chiefs in directly affected areas and those indirectly affected through having to send large numbers of men to assist their colleagues.

These will be in addition to the reports which the chief constables will make in any case to their police authorities.

The chief inspector will also draw on the large amount of correspondence sent in by the public, video films, and the

experience of the National Reporting Centre in London.

Mr Brittan will continue to resist Labour Party demands for an independent inquiry into police conduct during the dispute. The view of the minister is that the police in general reacted superbly, often under provocative conditions, but that on occasions of the criticism may have been justified.

There is acceptance that the image of the police suffered as a result of television coverage of some of the most violent scenes. Mr Brittan disclosed in the Commons yesterday that from March 13 last year to February 26, 549 complaints were made against the police in connection with the dispute and that 111 were withdrawn. Some 256 contained allegations of assault by police officers.

## Revenue cracks down on £300m tax loophole

By Christopher Dunne and Lorna Bourke

The Inland Revenue acted yesterday to outlaw bond washing in the gilt-edged market, a dealing tactic in government securities which has been costing the Exchequer approximately £300 million a year in lost revenue.

The move heightened speculation that the Chancellor will introduce radical reforms of capital gains tax in his Budget on March 19. Two options are being discussed as real possibilities. First, a reintroduction of the old distinction between short-term and long-term capital gains, taxing short-term gains as income. This would have little appeal to a truly reforming Chancellor.

More interesting is the possibility that capital gains tax will be abolished and profits above a much higher threshold or exemption limit of, perhaps, £10,000, would be taxed at

income rates. Indexation to allow for inflation would be abolished completely, except for gains on property where it is easy to calculate and administer.

Gains above the inflation adjusted value of property would, however, become subject to income tax.

Bond washing in its present form enables investors to cumulate part of their gains on an investment into capital, thereby incurring tax at the lower capital gains tax rate, or even avoiding tax altogether. The new measures will not come into effect until February 28, next year.

The Chancellor's move will also bring the London market into line with world bond markets.

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## Hard times at Hampton Court

By Richard Evans

## Palace wants to take in tenants

Hampton Court Palace, the home of kings and queens of England in centuries past and now one of Britain's top tourist attractions, could soon become the home of Arab oil sheikhs and American multimillionaires.

A plan presented to Cabinet ministers proposes introducing legislation to allow many of the Tudor palace's 1,000 rooms to be converted into luxury apartments and let to the highest bidders on short-term leases.

The Queen, who owns the sixteenth-century premises built in Henry VIII's reign, by Cardinal Wolsey has, according to Whitehall sources, been informed of the scheme and not voiced disapproval. The last monarch to live there was George II, in 1760.

visitors brought in less than £1 million revenue, and ministers are convinced that "a measure of privatization" could turn the palace into a money spinner.

They believe that the palace's prime position on the Thames, a dozen miles from the heart of London, together with its historic links, would prove a great attraction to foreigners seeking a prestige British home.

If the Cabinet approves the palace would also hire out some of the magnificent rooms, where private organizations could hold banquets and annual dinners.

The project has been prompted by the lack of demand for the palace's 69 "grace and favour" homes - apartments let, rent-free, by the Crown, mostly to widows of distinguished military and diplomatic staff.

have 25ft high ceilings, are unoccupied because of the expense.

In addition to the unused apartments, four-fifths of Hampton Court's 1,000 rooms are empty and closed to the public. It has been estimated that if they were all converted up to 2,000 people could live in the palace.

Primary legislation would have to be introduced in Parliament before the Crown Estate Commissioners could begin renovation. If the development takes place ministers are insisting that tourists should still have access to the state apartments, mazes and gardens.

Some outbuildings have already been adapted for use by organizations such as the Textile Conservation Centre and the Embroiderers' Guild, and the further development of small-scale cottage industry is likely.



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh entering The Times offices in London yesterday with the editor Mr Charles Douglas-Home

## Queen sees The Times at work

By Alan Hamilton

Sovereigns have traditionally enjoyed a somewhat distant relationship with the Fourth Estate of their Realm. When the Queen paid a visit to The Times yesterday, it was only the second time in the 200-year history of this journal that a reigning monarch had crossed the paper's threshold.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, paid two separate calls, one in the morning when this issue was no more than a random collection of thoughts and scribbles on paper, and one in the evening to see the ideas translated into paper and ink, and to receive one of the first copies of a specially-printed Royal Edition to pour from the press.

Her presence at the beginning and end of the daily cycle of a newspaper was a highlight of this year's celebrations to mark the bicentenary of a sheet founded in the reign of her four-times-great grandfather, King George III.

It was an occasion for fresh paint and crisp white shirts in the proudly grubby and chaotic world of journalism, with editorial staff striving to give the lie to Queen Victoria's not even be admitted into society. Unlike her great-grandmother, the Queen is no stranger to The Times, having become the first reigning monarch to visit the newspaper when she toured its former offices at Blackfriars in 1957.

The Queen was met at the front door by Mr Robert Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers Ltd, and Mr Charles Douglas-Home, editor of The Times, who conducted her on a tour of editorial departments. The Duke, a few steps behind, sprang at a group of waiting reporters and cameramen to ask whether they were opposition; they were.

In the editor's office the Queen met senior executives of the paper, and was shown Haydon's celebrated nineteenth-century painting, *Waiting for the Times*, depicting an avid reader poring over a news sheet the size of a tablecloth. As she entered the newsroom the normally cacophonous telephones observed a brief and obliging silence as she met home and foreign news editors.

At the picture desk, the Queen was intrigued by a vast telephoto lens, used by some newspapers to observe herself and her family at indirectly close quarters, but by The Times, she was assured, for photographing cricket matches.

While meeting some of the newspaper's specialist correspondents she engaged in a brief informal discussion with Mr Paul Routledge, labour

Continued on back page, col 1

## Pound suffers again as dollar recovers

By Bailey Morris in Washington and David Smith

The dollar started climbing again yesterday after the dramatic falls earlier this week. Dealers said that market sentiment still favoured the dollar in spite of Wednesday's heavy central bank intervention.

The pound fell 73 points to \$1.0827, later dipping to \$1.0750 in New York. The sterling index dropped 0.3 to 71.3.

Trading was described as thin and nervous in the aftermath of the chaos of the previous day. The German Bundesbank is thought to have sold dollars modestly but other central banks, including the Bank of England, stayed out.

The German intervention came as the dollar edged up to DM3.35 against the mark. It ended the day at DM3.34, unchanged on the previous close.

The pound lost ground against most currencies, dropping over a pence against the mark to DM3.6129. A further fall in oil prices on the European spot markets, with North Sea Brent crude for March delivery down 20 cents a barrel, added to the pressure on the pound.

Some dealers argued that the central banks could well take advantage of quiet markets today and intervene further.

However, the general view was that the dollar's recovery will proceed at a steady pace.

Trade figures for the US, published yesterday, underlined the impact of the strong dollar on the American economy.

The trade deficit increased sharply last month to \$10.3 billion as US companies, battered by the strong dollar, increased their appeals for protectionist measures from the Reagan Administration.

Commerce Department officials said the deficit grew by 28 per cent in January despite a record volume of exports totalling \$19.4 billion. The deficit resulted from a surge of imports which increased by 9.2 per cent last month, largely because of the strong dollar which set records against most major currencies, officials said.

Last year, the US trade deficit nearly doubled to a new record of \$123.3 billion and officials are now saying that if the dollar remains high the deficit this year could reach \$140 billion.

The new figures were released as US machine tool companies, textile firms and motor car manufacturers lobbied Congress for protectionist legislation, which the Reagan Administration strongly opposes.

## Mortar attack kills police

By Staff Reporters

Several people were killed and others seriously injured in a mortar attack on Newry police station in Northern Ireland last night.

The RUC said: "It could be the heaviest death toll to be suffered by the RUC in any single incident". The previous highest toll was five.

The RUC said some of the casualties had been seriously injured. The police station was extensively damaged.

In 1980, the Army was almost totally withdrawn from the border town of Newry, leaving the RUC to take over the brunt of the security operation.

A few soldiers were left to guard the police station and the Army base.

The police station provides a strategic target in the border town where 90 per cent of the population is Roman Catholic.

The attack, in which six direct hits were reported, was thought to have been carried out by the IRA in retaliation for considerable security forces successes.

Daisy Hill hospital in Newry said only that some people had been admitted.

The explosion, shortly before 7pm, was heard well over a mile away.

Mr Billy Baines in charge of the sorting office at Newry Post Office, was on duty with 12 colleagues when the attack happened. He said: "We heard at least three, perhaps four very loud bangs and the windows rattled. We knew that it was different from an ordinary bomb explosion. One of my colleagues who lives next to the police station has had his house very badly damaged and he is in a bad state of shock."

Mr Baines said the police station is protected with chain link fencing about 12 ft high and a watchtower.



## Public services spending urged

The Government is to be asked to set up a national board to co-ordinate investment in sewers, water pipes, motorways, gas, electricity, oil, and British Telecom.

The Institution of Civil Engineers has reviewed the country's infrastructure and in a report to be published this month will recommend both increased investment, and a new top level co-ordinating committee involving both government and contractors.

Spectrum, page 14

## Judge to examine phone taps

By Julian Haviland and Anthony Berins

The Government yesterday announced that Lord Bridge of Harwich, the senior judge whose duties include the annual monitoring of telephone and mail interceptions, has been asked to examine allegations that the security service, MI5, broke its own code in spying on trade union leaders, prominent members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and others.

Lord Bridge is expected to report early next week on whether proper procedures and criteria have been observed in the authorizing of interceptions.

But Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, said that if Lord Bridge's inquiry resulted in an over-hasty whitewash of the allegations, a future Labour government would crack down on the security services.

Mr Kinnock said to reporters as Westminster that, if it was found that there had been "unauthorized use of the procedures, then the next Labour government will be taking a different view of the security services."

"If the security services over a period of years abuse their powers, then a government with the will can to an extent discover that and prevent it." He added that that was not a threat but a promise.

While meeting some of the newspaper's specialist correspondents she engaged in a brief informal discussion with Mr Paul Routledge, labour

Continued on back page, col 1

## £5 buys him a pair of boots.



Bump cap and hood £8.

Lifejacket and safety line £72.

Protective jacket £40.

Protective trousers £30.

Boots £5.

It's not much to spend on a man who risks his life saving other people's.

Yet every penny that goes towards the lifeboats has to come from voluntary contributions.

You can make yours by joining Shoreline, the lifeboat supporters' club.

All we ask is your annual subscription and you receive our quarterly magazine, Lifeboat.

If you can afford more than £5 perhaps you could buy him a pair of trousers.

To: The Director, R.N.L.I., West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ  
I wish to join Shoreline. Here is my subscription.

Member £5 or more p.a. ☐ Family Membership £7.50 or more p.a. ☐  
Member & Governor £15 or more p.a. ☐ Life Member & Governor £150 or more. ☐ (Or I enclose a donation of £ )

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Royal National Lifeboat Institution



## Tumour treatment to be tested on humans

By Ivor Davis and Nicholas Tummins

Tests on cancer patients with a newly developed anti-tumour agent are to begin in Japan after studies in mice and on human cancer cells grown in the laboratory showed that it effectively killed tumour cells.

The agent, tumour necrosis factor (TNF), was first identified as a naturally-occurring substance in the blood of mice in 1975 and has since been found in other animals and man.

Studies have been hampered by the fact that it could not be mass produced and human TNF has yet to be purified. However, genetic engineering techniques have allowed one to be produced believed to have almost the same or an identical structure to natural human TNF.

Produced by researchers at the Southern California Medical Centre in Los Angeles, in cooperation with Asahi Chemical Industry of Japan, the TNF, details of which are reported in this week's *Nature*, is similar to other TNFs produced last year by Genentech and Cetus.

Human testing is to begin in Japan because the substance has yet to be given clearance for human trials by the US Food and Drug Administration.

## 'Sorry state of affairs' at the Dorchester

An industrial tribunal was told yesterday of the "sorry state of affairs" in the banqueting department at The Dorchester hotel in London.

Mr Malcolm Watson, senior manager of the food and banqueting department, said that he was amazed when checks revealed 120 discrepancies in one week. "I had experienced nothing like it before."

After an internal investigation three waiters were dismissed last August, and the entire department disciplined, he said.

Mr Vincent Kami, Mr Peter Garofalo, and Mr George Pinter the waiters, all claim unfair dismissal. The tribunal is sitting in London.

The hearing was adjourned until March 15.

## Personal attacks on Benn in clashes over party policy

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Tony Benn has been involved in a bitter clash with Labour right-wingers on a special committee set up to define the party's aims and objectives.

The flare-up was on Tuesday night when the committee met for the first time to begin work on a document setting out the "principles of democratic socialism", a process which the centre-right hopes will isolate the Militant Tendency and other far-left factions.

Mr Ken Curre, a leading moderate, introduced the left with a submission in which he attacked "ruthless left-wing elitism" and accused a left minority of fomenting discontent and intimidating working-class party members.

But it was when Mr Benn began what the right saw as a too stout defence of the ultra left that an argument arose and personal attacks were made on Mr Benn by Mr Charles Turkel, of the National Union of Railwaymen, and Mr Curre.

According to some of those present the exchanges were as harsh as any they had previously heard at any internal party meeting, and Mr Benn at one stage appeared about to walk out.

The full text of the submission by Mr Curre, who is chairman of the party's appeal and mediation committee, follows.

**SUBMISSION BY KEN CURRE TO SPECIAL LABOUR PARTY COMMITTEE DEFINING DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM:**

"In cosy today, when the skills of literacy and numeracy are over-emphasized, the middle class have a potential built-in advantage. A minority of highly educated people normally in the Labour Party are abusing these skills to gain power, by stretching the rules and constitution for narrow sectarian whims and purposes.

**INLA threat 'propaganda'**

Northern Ireland's sports and tourism officials were waiting anxiously yesterday to see whether the bomb exploded near the Windsor Park Stadium in Belfast an hour after the end of the soccer international between Northern Ireland and England on Wednesday night.

There was universal agreement that the Irish National Liberation Army was using the occasion for the maximum propaganda effect.

Meetings are misused by querying of minutes, points of order, streams of resolutions and suspension of standing orders. This last device often leaves a minority in control as people with children at home, or shift workers, or those tired from a hard day's work leave the meeting.

This abuse of acquired skills to embarrass, intimidate and bore working class party members is the very worst form of elitism. The same elitism was two-tier Labour Party with the academic intellectual elite holding office and making decision. The underlings meanwhile raise the money and do the donkey work under strict control.

The elitists have the strange idea that if you enlist enough minority pressure groups you form a majority in the country - such is their lack of understanding of the British people.

The elitist minority have ruthlessly and unscrupulously formed a minority by deriding the parliamentary Labour leadership. Not only have Kinnock, Foot, Callaghan, Wilson and Gaiskill come under fire, but now the post-war Attlee Labour government is being rubbished.

The practice of undermining leaders has now spread to local councils, where long-serving comrades are being axed without mercy. Splitter groups by various means which do not bear too clear an examination have substantial funds at their disposal and consequently well-qualified full-time staff, frequently in excess of that employed by moderate-sized unions and certainly far in excess of the Labour Party's field staff. The party has never before had to face such well-funded and expertly centrally-organized internal demolition squads in its history of struggle.

For the party to be diverted from its main task of serving the working class and the country is to say the least shameful. The party should deal with policies, not with the destruction of individual members. A party that appears to live by the doctrine that all political argument begins with a personal attack, a continuous purge of loyal party members will not survive.

It would have a lasting and damaging deterrent effect on visitors.

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The Archbishop of Canterbury with Cardinal Glemp at Lambeth Palace. (Photograph Dod Miller).

## Cardinal calls for close ties

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Cardinal Joseph Glemp, Primate of Poland, said in London yesterday that he would like "social relations" between his country and Britain to be "very greatly improved." He would welcome a greater exchange of books, theatrical companies, articles and artists, and some sharing of scientific research.

He added that he would particularly like to see the Celtic football team playing in Poland. More seriously, he wanted Poland to be treated as an equal in economic affairs and for voluntary aid to Poland - for which he expressed his gratitude - to be organized on a more regular basis.

The cardinal is to meet Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, just before his departure on Monday, and one topic is likely to be the British Government's attitude to a scheme for Western aid for Polish agriculture. Britain is said to be reluctant for the EEC to be involved in the scheme. Cardinal Glemp did not discuss this yesterday, but he said he recognized that the scheme was likely to be expensive.

In the morning, Cardinal Glemp went with Cardinal Basil Hume, of Westminster, to Lambeth Palace for an official meeting with Dr Robert Runcie.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, after a reception at lunchtime, spoke to the Press for an hour, beginning with a formal statement in which he thanked Britain for its hospitality to him and his help to Poland.

He added: "Man has the right to see the fruits of his work and enjoy them. When someone arrives from abroad he is immediately struck by the high standards of life that are enjoyed by most members of this society. When you take a closer look you notice that the British people obtained this standard through hard work, thoughtful planning, and saving."

Dr Baker singles out St John's Gospel, in which, he said, "the Jew" is always a pejorative term. "They are the massa damnata." In the Passion narratives of both St John and St Matthew great efforts are made, in different ways, to show that the blame for the death of Jesus rests on the Jews, the leaders principally, but also on all the people.

"An act of theological penitence, and a conscious and publicly-declared re-appraisal of the biblical insights, including a disowning of the distorted features of the New Testament, is essential if these churches are to address themselves to their part in the racial situation with cleansed consciences."

Dr Baker's comments are in accordance with a growing opinion in Christian theology that the mere disavowal of anti-Semitism is not a sufficient response to the Holocaust.

Passages in the New Testament and the ancient tradition that the church is the "New Israel", after the Jews' rejection of their Messiah, are held to be ideas in which anti-Semitism could regenerate, because they contain an implicit rejection of the Jewish people's right to exist as a distinct religious community.

Bishop Baker does not quote them by chapter and verse, but the passages to which Biblical experts usually refer are such as Matthew 27: verse 25: "And all the people answered: His blood be on us and on our children"; or John 19:7: "The Jews answered him: We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God." The charge of "God killing" was explicitly repudiated by the Second Vatican Council.

**Theology and Racism** (Church House Bookshop: Great Smith Street, London SW1; £2).

## Church told to disown racism of the Bible

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

The churches must disown the "distorted features of the New Testament" if they are to have clean consciences concerning race relations, the Right Rev John Baker, Bishop of Salisbury, says in a new book published today.

Christianity, more than any other religion, had succumbed to the "poison of racism. The primary reason for this was the 'Jew' of anti-Semitism, developing into anti-Semitism, which Christianity had spawned out from the earliest times.

No matter that Jesus was a Jew, that thousands of Jewish-formed the first Christian churches, that the Jewish scriptures constituted, for nearly 200 years, the only Christian Bible. The Jews were those who had rejected and killed the Son of God; and into that indictment Christians were able to funnel all the hatred and humiliation they themselves felt at having been rejected by Judaism," Dr Baker stated.

Dr Baker, Bishop of Salisbury since 1982 and a noted theologian, is the new chairman of the Church of England's Doctrine Commission.

The report was commissioned by the Board for Social Responsibility of the General Synod, and contains four articles by leading scholars, of which the bishop's is the first. All of them conclude that Christianity has a heavy responsibility for the tradition of anti-Semitism, which culminated in the Nazi holocaust, although they disagree about the extent of anti-Semitic influence in Christian scripture and theology.

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**Theology and Racism** (Church House Bookshop: Great Smith Street, London SW1; £2).

## Acas has talks with teachers' employers

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

Local authority employers of teachers were approached yesterday by the Advisory, Conciliation, and Arbitration Service (Acas) about exploratory talks on the issue of conciliation in the present pay dispute.

The move comes after a suggestion by the employers to seek an independent conciliator to get the two sides talking again. That overture was effectively rebuffed by Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers (NUT), the biggest teachers' union.

The NUT produced a "leaked" government document yesterday which, it claimed, showed that a 7 per cent pay rise in return for salary reform and new contracts had been ruled out as long ago as November 14, the day before the package of reforms was announced.

Furthermore, Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers said that he had a meeting with Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, yesterday afternoon at which the minister stated was no prospect of 7 per cent ever being made available for salary restructuring in a single year.

Mr Smithies said: "Sir Keith expects teachers to get used to a life of being underpaid."

**Dog theft jail sentences cut**

A man who blackmailed his former mistress by stealing her dog and demanding a £2,000 ransom won a reduction in his two-year jail sentence yesterday.

The Court of Appeal reduced the sentence on David Pearce, aged 36, an unemployed labourer, of Stevenage, Hertfordshire, to 12 months, six of them suspended.

Mrs Marion West, aged 39, also of Stevenage, who for her part in the crime received a 12-month sentence, half of it suspended, was freed when the judges in the Appeal Court cut the total sentence to six months and suspended the period she had yet to serve.

**13m tourists set record**

Britain's tourist trade broke records last year with 13.7 million overseas visitors, an increase of 11 per cent on 1983, the Department of Trade and Industry reported yesterday.

Visitors spent £4,194 million, a 15 per cent increase, with those from North America taking advantage of the strong dollar.

**Cow-catchers fitted to trains**

British Rail has fitted its first cow-catcher which is capable of withstanding a 100mph collision with a 2,000lb cow. All trains operating in the Scottish region are to be fitted with the £8,000 defectors.

A report into the rail crash last July at Polmont in Scotland in which 13 passengers died, recommended last week that the defectors be fitted.

The Times overseas selling prices: £2.75; Canada \$1.75; Europe \$2.00; India \$1.50; Japan ¥1,000; New Zealand \$1.50; Pakistan \$1.50; Singapore \$1.50; South Africa \$1.50; Switzerland \$1.50; Taiwan \$1.50; USA \$1.75; Yugoslavia \$1.50.

## Guerrilla plan to replace strike

The strategy of an early return to work by striking miners without an agreement on pit closures first surfaced in the South Wales coalfield, where it gained support as a means of ending the year-long conflict without accepting the shutdown of collieries on economic grounds.

Lodge officials of the National Union of Mineworkers in the area have argued strongly that the year-old strike should be brought to an end so that "guerrilla action" against the National Coal Board's capacity reduction plans could be fought locally.

The idea was further backed in the militant Yorkshire coalfield, where men are now going back to work in increasing numbers. But it is not regarded either by the board or the centre-left coalition that dominates the NUM executive as the best solution to the conflict.

*One ending to the strike that is a distinct possibility is a return to work without an agreement. Paul Roulledge, Labour Editor, analyses a move that is gathering support among the striking miners.*

The miners who have pushed this policy argue that it will avoid an outright commitment on the part of the NUM to accept that pits must close because they are unprofitable.

Strong areas such as Yorkshire and South Wales could then work under the old colliery review procedure, which delays any shutdown for up to six months and has no specific provision for "economic" considerations.

But the opponents of such a move counter-argue that it would lead to a return to work without any tangible gains for 31 weeks of strike action, and after such a long dispute the men would not be willing to stop work again to prevent closures.

Furthermore, the NUM would not be in a position to seek the reinstatement of 650 men dismissed after being convicted of various offences committed since last March, if there was no agreed return-to-work formula.

The coal board is unhappy about the prospect of a "march back" without any agreement because it would leave the risk of sudden walk-outs that would make production planning almost impossible.

The board is also anxious to have a formal agreement with the NUM that recognizes once and for all its right to manage the industry, its final responsibility to decide if a pit should close and its duty to shut mines where there are "no further reserves which can be developed to provide the board in line with their continuing responsibilities, with a satisfactory basis for continuing operations."

Without such an understanding, the industry might stagger from crisis to crisis for years to come, coal board managers fear. The board would be in a powerful bargaining position after sitting out a 12-month stoppage, but it could not necessarily count on the loyalty of the men. Branch officials of the NUM - particularly in Yorkshire - are talking of an indefinite period of "non-cooperation" with management, though this is regarded as largely a bravado, designed to keep up the spirits of the men and wrong-foot the NCB.

unions to back strike; more money pledged, but idea of general levy on members dropped.

**October 20:** Power workers belonging to the electricians' union, vote five to one against sympathetic actions.

The TUC team is closely involved in talks, and a seven-man monitoring group is set up to co-ordinate unions' response.

**November 14:** TUC moderates call for TUC leaders to take over handling miners' talks. By November 28 the TUC has stepped in, but Mr Scargill fails to attend the first strategy meeting.

**December 4:** Seven-man "monitoring group" meets miners, who plead for national sympathy strikes.

**December 6:** TUC sanctions sympathy strikes, but stops short of sanctioning direct financial support because of sequestration fears. No unions promote additional sympathy action.

**January 17:** NUR and Aslef stage 24-hour strike in protest at alleged British Rail harassment of railmen blacking coal. Railmen have continued blacking coal, except in Nottinghamshire, but it has had little effect because of heavy lorries, mostly operated by TGWU members, have successfully delivered since early last summer. The seamen's support has been consistent at national level, and coastal movements hampered, but imports continue.

Apart from occasional "days of action" patchily supported, these events have been the only direct support of the miners.

**Geoffrey Smith, page 4**

**Parliament, page 4**

## Deputies bar return to work

By Staff Reporters

Nacods, the pit deputies' union, has enraged working miners in Nottinghamshire by refusing to allow its men to supervise a return to normal working in the coalfield, after the decision on Monday of the area NUM to lift the 16-month national overtime ban at its pits.

The Midlands area council of Nacods, which represents among others, more than 2,000 deputies in Nottinghamshire, decided yesterday that it would not permit the supervision of miners carrying out routine maintenance at pits this week-end until it receives new instructions from its national executive, which is due to meet next week.

It is likely that the Nacods national executive will support the Midlands council and that non-cooperation will continue until the overtime ban is lifted nationally. The Nottinghamshire area of the miners' union is regarded as having acted unconstitutionally in unilaterally lifting the ban.

Miners who have returned to work at a pit in South Yorkshire coalfield have been painting colliery baths and spring cleaning buildings in aid of producing coal. They are not allowed to work underground without the supervision of the pit deputies, who refuse to cross NUM picket lines.

A psychological blow against the solidarity of the South Wales miners was struck when for the first time since the dispute began coal was brought to the surface from the Cynheidre colliery.

**More smokers starting young**

There has been a rise of more than 20 per cent since 1981 in the number of young adult smokers aged 18 to 24 according to a National Opinions Poll survey published yesterday.

There are 10 per cent more smokers among people in their 50s and 60s than three years ago, although these trends are partly counteracted by a decline in smoking among the 25s to 49s.

The survey, among 1,500 adults, shows that 41 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds are smokers. Six out of 10 said they tried to give up but failed.

**Hare memorial**

Hunt saboteurs staged a service in memory of the hares killed in the "Waterloo" Cup coursing event, which ended at Aikar, Merseyside, yesterday.

## Inquiry told of £4m US settlement

From Pearce Wright Science Editor, Snape

Details of the first settlement to people claiming health injuries after an accident in a nuclear power station have been submitted to the Sizewell B public inquiry.

Although the timetable for the inquiry to give oral evidence ended in December, the report of an out-of-court settlement in the United States was presented in a letter to Sir Frank Layfield, QC, the inquiry inspector, by Mr Robin Hare.

Mr Hare represents the Joint Parish Councils, a group of three local authorities - Middleton, Therberton and Yorkford - bordering the proposed site at Sizewell, Suffolk.

Payments of £4 million have been made in an out-of-court insurance settlement to claims related to the Three Mile Island accident in 1979.

## A year with little support from unions

By Colin Hughes

As the pits dispute edges closer to a messy end, Mr Arthur Scargill increasingly blames the inexorable crumbling of the strike on failure by other unions to take direct action in support.

The history, after the start of the strike last March 6, is a complex story of union leaders repeatedly striving to take sympathetic action and failing, or of the National Union of Mineworkers rejecting overtures from the TUC because it feared a compromise settlement.

The chronology begins on March 26 when the NUM told the TUC to stay out of the dispute. Mr Scargill's tactic was to enlist support from key transport and power unions, especially those with left-wing leaderships in sympathy with NUM methods.

March 29: The "six unions" meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen, Aslef, the train drivers' union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, the National Union of Seamen, the Transport Salaried Staffs Association and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, not to cross miners' picket lines; recommendation to officials to black coal movements; central co-ordinating committee set up at Transport House HQ.

April 1: NUS threatens merchant shipping strike in legal action is taken against coal blacking; Aslef men vote to black coal movements by rail.

April 3: NUR instructs members to black coastal coal movements.

April 6: "Triple alliance" meeting of rail, miners and steel

**Miners at work yesterday**

Area	New	Total	% at work
Scotland	87	5,774	47.4
North-east	200	10,886	49.5
Yorkshire	634	10,647	21
Western	20	12,337	87
S Wales	98	1,471	7.5
N Wales	88	7,265	78
S Midlands (incl Kent)	9	9,614	81.4
Notes	6	25,800	95.6

Source: NCB area offices

The figures in the table relate to miners at work yesterday and do not include working miners who were sick or on leave. Some strike totals do not include strike-callers and other categories of workers.

unions in Edinburgh fails to persuade ISTC to black coal to Ravenscraig steel plant. Steelmen concerned to protect own jobs and eventually use any coke or coal delivered to steel plants, including Llanwern and Scunthorpe.

April 13: Belfast dockers reject NUM blacking plea, but on April 20 TGWU warns of national dock strike if employers pay off dockers blacking coal.

June 27: Rail workers stage 24-hour London strike in sympathy. But effects are piecemeal.

July 9: National dock strike called over loading iron ore at Immingham. Dock strike ends twelve days later, ostensibly over dock labour board issues and weakening support for strike which is seen as political.

August 1: Nine union leaders meet Scargill, NUR and Aslef, agree to hold 24-hour sympathy strike and "work to agreement". Left-wing union leaders strive without success to raise support for "big bang" of sympathy strikes in autumn.

August 14: TGWU, NUS, NUR and Aslef meet miners at Cardiff, with ISTC notably absent, but fail to agree on further joint action.

August 19: NIM amendment to NUR motion to TUC calls for general strike to support unions confronting legal action, but move defeated before TUC meets.

August 22: TUC general council holds first full debate on strike. By August 29 TUC leaders frustrated by NUM failure to hold early pre-congress talks on strategy, despite general council saying it will help on negotiations, hardship and finances.

August 23: Second dock strike, over supplies to Ravenscraig, called off on September 13 as dockers drift back.

September 1: TUC general council lends qualified support. It condemns coal board and Government, affirms total support for campaign to save pits, jobs and mining communities, calls for concerted effort to raise funds to alleviate hardship, and calls on all union members to black coal and oil taken across picket lines.

September 2: Sunday Times/MORI poll finds 50 per cent of union members do not support NUM, only one in five against crossing their picket lines and two per cent support general strike call.

It is reported that during the spring the electricians' union offered to hold a ballot on sympathy action on the condition that the NUM held a ballot on its action. Mr Scargill rejected the proposal.

September 3: TUC conference passes resolution recording "total support" for NUM, condemns "police state tactics", affirms commitment to Plan For Coal, and calls on all

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# Ford's monopoly over car panels ruled to be against public interest

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Ford of Britain was accused by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission yesterday of operating against the public interest and being anti-competitive in attempting to prevent independent companies selling cheaper replacement body panels.

In a detailed, 68-page report, the commission called for immediate changes in the law restricting Ford's monopoly on body panel design to five years. Meanwhile, it urged Ford to "respect the public interest as we have defined it" and modify its practices.

The ruling produced vehement reaction from Ford, which complained that it could pose a serious threat to its industrial property rights.

Ford said that investment in

new cars was immense and the design and engineering of body panels for the Sierra cost more than £90 million. "We have to maintain supplies of more than 4,000 panels for current and past models but the copiers are only interested in selling the more profitable 150."

This is the first time that any attempt has been made to use competition laws to erode the established rights provided by the laws of industrial property. Any change in the law would be damaging to us and could have far-reaching implications for the whole of British industry.

The investigation was referred to the commission last May by Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of Fair Trading.

and followed Ford's decision to institute legal proceedings against companies over alleged counterfeiting of body panels and sale at prices sometimes more than three times lower than those of Ford dealers.

The commission called for amendments to the Registered Designs Act, 1949 and the Copyright Act, 1956 limiting protection of designs - five instead of 15 years which, it concludes, would be of particular benefit to second-hand buyers.

Competition from the independents had had a beneficial effect on prices and on innovation, it said. "It is particularly important to owners of older cars: without the independents' panels many such cars might either be scrapped or run for a time without necessary repairs or inadequately repaired."

In the absence of competition, prices of replacement panels would be likely to rise. "Elimination of the independents' competition is therefore against the public interest."

Under its proposals, Ford would enjoy a monopoly for five years which "should be enough to enable Ford to obtain an adequate return on its investment in the model concerned," and provide continuing stimulus to innovation and development.

The report concluded that there was no evidence that the parts made by independent companies represented "poorer quality" as alleged by Ford, but suggested the company and the independents agree on any questions of safety.

## Miners' criticism rejected

The EETPU, the right-wing electricians' union, yesterday rejected criticism from miners' leaders that they were among the dishonourable men who refused to abide by TUC commitments to back the pit strike.

Mr John Grant, former Labour minister and the union's head of communications, told a CBI conference that Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, had betrayed his own members.

Mr Grant, now a member of the Social Democratic Party, said: "Miners' leaders talk self-righteously about the dishonour of trade unionists who refuse to support them. What greater dishonour is there than wilfully and knowingly to lead a minority, decent people to defeat and then to refuse to accept the responsibility for the situation. That blatant betrayal of trust is dishonourable in the extreme."

He added: "But when Arthur's finished massaging his ego nightly in public, and it really is indecent exposure on an abhorrent scale, the nation may be able to turn its undivided attention to genuine economic recovery."

Efforts to promote trade unionism have been undermined by "Scargillism", he said. Too many people have failed to distinguish between the "mindless militants and the mindful moderates".

There were more than enough people in British industry who were anxious to disrupt rather than to build and who hid behind empty slogans and reckless rhetoric, he said.

## Ombudsman 'needed' for building societies

By Richard Thomson

The National Consumer Council called yesterday for a new ombudsman to deal with investors' complaints against building societies.

Mr Michael Montagu, chairman of the NCC, said at the City University Business School in London, that the present system of redress for building society savers was ramshackle.

The case for an ombudsman would become greater when the Government introduces new legislation to allow societies to offer a wider range of financial services next year, he added.

The National Consumer Council had advised the Government to include building societies in the new banking ombudsman, but the banks objected. Mr Montagu said that a separate ombudsman for the societies was therefore needed.

He said the present method of settling complaints in local county courts was unsatisfactory for building society investors.

Mr Montagu also called for substantial improvements in the complaints procedures in other areas of the savings sector, although he believed it too early to set up a single savings ombudsman to cover all parts of the industry.

Mr Montagu also said, a system of redress was needed to deal with pensions problems. He said that a pension was the single most important saving for many people.

Moreover, the powers of the insurance ombudsman should be widened to include complaints against intermediaries as well as insurance companies. It should also be able to deal with actuarial matters. He said, consumers tended to get "extremely bad value for money if they had to surrender a policy soon after taking it up".

He said, any new complaints systems should be financed by the area of the savings industry concerned.

## Locomotive ran into unlit train

A locomotive ran into an unlit staff train which it had been sent to help, a railway accident inquiry at Basingstoke, Hampshire, was told yesterday. The staff train had stopped after hitting a fall of chalk which damaged electrical gear, leaving the train in darkness.

The accident happened in a cutting on the main Waterloo-Bournemouth line near Michel-dever, Hampshire, on January 26. Rescuers had to abseil down the steep chalk face to reach the scene.

Mr Paul Wells, driver of the relief locomotive, was trapped for four hours before being taken to hospital with a cracked pelvic bone and crushed thigh muscles. Six other people also received hospital treatment.

Mr Kenneth Odell, aged 54, the driver of the staff train, said he was not able to put his lamp on the front of the train because he needed it to examine damaged electrical shoes and cut them free.

Mr Gordon Lewis, the inspector will prepare a report and submit recommendations to the Department of Transport.

## Prince aids campaign on homeless

The Prince of Wales has lent his support to a campaign to combat homelessness among the young, due to be launched today.

In a message of support to the Young Homelessness Group, the Prince says he recognizes that "for young people, leaving home and gaining independence is an issue of paramount importance in their lives. This is complicated by lack of housing and employment options open to them".

The Young Homelessness Group includes the British Youth Council, the Campaign for Single Homeless People, Shelter, and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders. They say that homelessness among the young is growing.

The British Youth Council said: "Young people will leave home as they require independence, and we need to ensure that this process is made as easy as possible."

The group has produced a set of working papers, to be published today, recommending initiatives to avoid "a future housing catastrophe".

## Lesbian's 'marriage' plea fails

A legal attempt to claim "married" status for male and female homosexual couples living together failed in the House of Lords yesterday.

The law lords refused to hear an appeal by Mary Simpson, a lesbian, against her eviction by Harrogate Borough Council from the council house in Kennion Road, Harrogate, she shared with her lover, Mrs Nicki Rodrigo, who died a year ago.

Last December, the Court of Appeal ruled that, in spite of a softening of public opinion, homosexual couples living together could not remotely be regarded as "man and wife", giving them security of tenure under the Housing Act, 1980.

The law lords refused Mrs Simpson leave to argue her case. Lord Fraser of Tullybelton told her counsel, Mr Robert Allen: "It seems to me that you are fighting for a social revolution, but that is more than the courts can do. It is a matter for Parliament. I don't accept that when Parliament passed the Housing Act 1980 they meant a homosexual couple to be treated as husband and wife."

Lord Brandon commented that Harrogate council, having established their rights, might now think it right to grant Mrs Simpson a new tenancy.

But after the hearing, a legal spokesman for the council said that Mrs Simpson, who was said to be living on social security, had already left the three-bedroom house and moved out of the area. "If she were to apply for a tenancy, it would be decided in the normal way on the merits."

## 'Noddy' car fetches £500

Trull Primary School near Taunton, Somerset, has sold its rare "Noddy type" pedal car for £500.

After it was reported in *The Times* that the school was seeking to sell the car to raise cash for a computer Mrs Margaret Jones, the headmistress was inundated with offers from enthusiasts.

## 100 new jobs

A hundred new jobs are to be created as part of a £6 million investment by Convertex International, which makes metallic board and paper, at Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan.

## Mammals come alive for blind children at museum exhibition



Discovering mammals, an exhibition for the blind and partially sighted, opens at the Natural History Museum in London today. At a preview yesterday Maela Forrester (left), aged eight, from Thames Ditton, Surrey, explored a deer with the help of a recorded commentary while Rupert Agutter, aged 12, from Crawley Down, West Sussex, got to grips with a dolphin. The exhibition runs until the end of the month (Photograph: Barry Beattie).

## Complaint on export of live animals

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government has been accused by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of allowing breaches of the law on the transport of live animals.

The society has lodged a formal complaint before the European Commission. A document outlines numerous breaches of EEC directives on animals being moved from one country to another, and showing how both the UK and French governments have failed fully to implement the directives.

It maintains that the Ministry of Agriculture appears unable to take effective action to prevent such breaches.

A lawyer for the society said that to obtain a licence to export animals, hauliers had to declare

they would be fed and watered at an agreed staging post, if the journey was likely to last more than 18 hours.

"This amounts to an implicit requirement to stop on these journeys."

Chief Superintendent Frank Milner, of the society's special investigations department, said that teams had trailed more than 140 consignments of live animals to the Continent over seven years.

"In 56 cases, the journey lasted more than 18 hours, but only one stopped to feed and water the animals."

The society is asking the Commission, if its complaint is upheld, to refer the matter to the European Court of Justice should there be no satisfactory response from the Government.

## Clubs try to save Dr Who

Fans of *Dr Who* were yesterday attempting to save their hero - and were even considering offering the BBC a co-production deal to stop the programme from being discontinued for 18 months.

American fans suggested financial backing to save the next *Dr Who* series after news of the BBC decision reached the United States.

"Organizers of *Dr Who* fan clubs were so shocked they stayed up all night to start 'Save the Doctor' campaigns", Mr Ron Katz, a spokesman for one of the American clubs, said.

He said there were 100,000 members in official clubs in the United States but there were millions more fans throughout the country.

## Galleries left Monet Matisse and Renoir

Kenneth Levy, a millionaire stockbroker, has left his valuable art collection to the Tate and National Gallery.

The collection includes a Renoir, Monet, Matisse, Corot and Utrillo. In his will, published yesterday, the galleries receive the collection when his wife, Helena, dies.

His friend and former partner at the London Stock Exchange, Mr Bryan Carvalho, said yesterday: "These pictures have been valued at over £1 million. He paid a few hundred pounds for each of them and of course they became fabulously valuable."

"But he bought them because he liked them. He liked to have them on his wall. He got very annoyed with people trying to buy them not because they liked them, but because they thought they might become more valuable."

Mr Levy, who was 86 when he died in December, left estate valued at £2,162,227 net. Mr Levy, who retired from the stock exchange about 20 years ago, also left £17,000 to various charities. He joined the Friends of Tate when it was formed in the 1960s and made the bequest through the organization.

A spokesman for the friends said yesterday they were "very pleased" about the gift.

Other wills, page 18

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**Gas**

GAS IS WONDERFUL

## Sinclair plans four-seat electric car

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The Sinclair CS battery-assisted tricycle is only the first step in a £100 million investment programme aimed at producing four-seat family cars. It will be powered by a new type of battery, capable of speeds up to 80 mph, and with a range of several hundred miles between charges.

The announcement was made yesterday by Sir Clive Sinclair, who attacked established motor manufacturers for holding back the development of the electric car to protect the internal investments in the combustion engine. He also announced that from today 400 leading electrical outlets will begin selling the CS.

Sir Clive said: "Existing car makers will not meet the need for an electric car and destroy their own investment. We cannot meet them head on now with the vast sums of money needed to go into mass

production, but we are working progressively with that aim."

The children aged 14 and 15 who were riding CSs today, were the first of the "electric generation". It was possible that they would never drive a petrol-powered car, "because we shall be supplying their electric car needs in the future," he said. Modified versions of the CS would follow in the coming months to increase its range, visibility, and to make it suitable for overseas markets.

The next big step, the C10, was about two years away, and there would be a side-by-side two-seater, again using three wheels, with a top speed of 30mph and a range of 40 miles without charges, which were double the "present" speed and range claimed for CS, Sir Clive said. It would have a steering wheel, in preference to the handlebars of the present

model, and would require a driving test.

The ultimate aim was C15, in every way a family car, using a very streamlined body already being tested in a wind tunnel. The traditional lead acid batteries which powered CS and C10 would not be suitable, but he was very optimistic about a new power source being developed by an outside specialist.

Sir Clive said he hoped the £399 CS would be "hugely profitable" so that funds could be ploughed back to produce C10 and C15.

The outlets now selling CS include 200 Comet stores, selected Woolworths, 100 Wiggins stores in the Midlands, and 30 Rayfords Supreme Discount Stores along the south coast.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 CSs have already been sold, the bulk by mail order.



# Thatcher orders judge to investigate

## COMMONS

In view of recent allegations that the telephone of Lord Bridge of Harwich, the judicial monitor of communications interception and surveillance, had been tapped, the Prime Minister has asked Lord Bridge of Harwich, the judicial monitor of communications interception and surveillance, to examine the relevant papers to determine whether the tapping had taken place.

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chucking bottles at them as we saw on television at the weekend. If people turned up looking for trouble, they were lucky to be living in this country where they did not get what they deserved.

Mr. Robert Maclean (Cathness and Sutherland, SDP) said that because of the relevance of the Bridge inquiry to the legislation which the Secretary of State proposed to put before the House on Wednesday, would the Bill be withdrawn until MPs had the Bridge report before the House?

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Service, if true, are themselves subversive. It is wrong for individuals such as the chairman of CND, or general secretary, should be harassed in this manner.

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Brittan: Procedures should be followed

to defend any interception or surveillance going outside that. I have no reason to believe it has occurred, but Lord Bridge will look into the matter.

the Maxwell Fyfe directive, been used for purely political purposes. It did not deal, either, with unauthorized interceptions.

When the Speaker (Mr. Bernard Weatherill) interrupted Mr. Kaufman as he asked more questions, Mr. Kaufman said he wanted to put one or two further questions because the Home Secretary had behaved quite improperly in making a major statement in response to a planned supplementary question, and the rights of the Opposition must be protected.

The Bridge inquiry he went on, seemed to have terms of reference deliberately designed to produce the answer that the Government wanted. It would also be quite improper to proceed with the interception of Communications Bill.

Above all (he said) the country will not tolerate a cover-up on this matter. It wants the truth and we insist on the truth. (Labour cheer)

Mr. Brittan: Leaving aside his rhetoric, I am sure he will, on reflection, regret what he has said with the imputations contained in it. I have no doubt Lord Bridge will conduct his inquiry quickly. It has a comparatively narrow compass. As to the timing of the interception which is a matter for the Leader of the House.

He is right, the inquiry is related to interception which is an aspect covered by Lord Bridge as monitor. As for false classification being something subversive, that will come directly within the inquiry by Lord Bridge, because, of course, if somebody has been intercepted in a way that is contrary to the criteria, then this is something which Lord Bridge will cover.

# Milk deal to help British producers

## EEC AGRICULTURE

The latest meeting of the EEC Council of Agriculture Ministers in Brussels was highly satisfactory for the United Kingdom. Mr. Michael Foot, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a statement in the Commons.

Mr. Foot said that there had been an agreement on the second major step, after milk, to bring reality into the common agricultural policy and modifications to the milk regime were of great importance.

Mr. Foot said that for one year only unused milk quota would be permitted to be carried over between producers and between regions. Provided there was no abrupt change in levels of milk production, he expected this to relieve all liability for levy on wholesale milk sales to the UK for 1984-85.

This was of particular benefit to Northern Ireland. He also expected liability for levy on direct sales to be substantially reduced, though it was not yet possible to say whether it would be eliminated.

The Council agreed on a series of important measures to bring wine production under control. There was a commitment to a restrictive price policy as long as a significant structural surplus remained.

council problems which have arisen because of the impact on firms like BP of this type of industrial alcohol. We do keep our eye closely on this matter.

Mr. John Morris (Aberavon, Lab.) asked if Mr. Foot had agreed to a system of distilling the surplus wine produced.

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Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Does it matter all that much how the miners' strike is brought to an end? Will it affect the interests of the Government, the National Coal Board, the miners themselves or the Labour Party whether there is a negotiated settlement or simply a mass return to work?

I would have thought that the miners needed a negotiated end to the strike more than anybody else. It might suit Mr. Arthur Scargill's sense of bravado to be able to claim that the National Union of Mineworkers had never conceded the principle of closing pits on economic grounds. But the union would in those circumstances stand even less chance than it would do otherwise of actually keeping uneconomic pits open.

If it had not agreed with the board on an independent review procedure, it could hardly take part in establishing that procedure and might well feel unable to appear before it. Without negotiations the NUM would be unable to secure even minor concessions as part of a deal.

The Labour Party would also stand to benefit from a settlement. Anything which keeps Mr. Scargill on our television screens at a moment when it is bad for the party. It has suffered severely from the strike, and the more definite and final the conclusion the sooner it can hope to recover.

"That is an issue of the past," we are a party of the future," that is the kind of message which Labour ought to be sending the country as soon as it can. In the meantime, the less it does to associate itself with such an unpopular dispute the better. So it was strange that its party political broadcast on Wednesday should have focused so much on the miners.

# Bill will bring new safeguards

Mr. Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab.) later asked the Home Secretary for a statement regarding his department's assessment of security requirements involved in monitoring the communications of pressure groups.

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Mr. Skinner: We do not believe what he has just said. As he has been made aware by his civil servants, my letter regarding this, and Mrs. Wallis of the Old School House, Clifton, near Moleworth, peace campaigners, who over five days had relatives and friends ringing only to be answered by the friends and relatives were able to find out that the Wallises had never had an Ansaphone in their home.

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# Counting the cost of miners' dispute

## COAL DISPUTE

Miners still on strike should return to work now to rebuild the industry which has been shattered. Mrs. Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions in the Commons.

She was replying to Mr. Michael Hirst (Stratford-on-Avon, Con.) who said that the majority of miners are working with 61 coal faces lost, the loss of £120 million in equipment and the loss of £700 million in miners' pay, and also a lot of jobs unnecessarily and permanently lost.

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# £8.5m plan for Cardiff dock development

## WALES

Mr. Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, announced when opening a Commons debate on Welsh affairs that he had given approval in principle to an urban development grant framework based on a grant of £8.5 million in respect of the redevelopment of the Butte East Dock area of south Cardiff.

This is an important day for Cardiff (he said). No development can take place until all statutory procedures associated with the acquisition of the necessary land are fulfilled. But, subject to those provisions, I am confident that the UDG framework which I have approved will enable the county council to proceed with the detailed work involved in implementing their exciting proposals for the regeneration of this part of Wales' capital city.

The chairman of Tarmac assured members that the proposals for the redevelopment of the Butte East Dock area of south Cardiff. The response had been most encouraging.

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# Prosecution Bill changes

## THE BILL

The Bill was read the third time, and on the motion that the Bill be passed, Lord Wigoder (Lab.) said if the Government attempted to reintroduce a clause to replace the rejected clause allowing the prosecution to appeal against a Crown Court sentence that appeared too lenient, the reaction was likely to be exactly the same and it would again be thrown out.

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# Real advantage of settlement

## LABOUR'S PARTY POLITICAL BROADCASTS

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# NUT rolling strikes to hit 255 schools next week

Children at 255 schools in England and Wales face disrupted classes from Tuesday, when the National Union of Teachers will call out 4,800 members on another series of three-day strikes. They will affect 27 education authorities.

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# No plans to curb TV reporting

## BROADCASTING

The Government would not consider introducing legislation to ban media coverage of terrorist activities, Mr. Giles Shaw, Minister of State, Home Office, said during Commons questions.

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# Law Report March 1 1985 Court of Appeal

## When wife has priority over mortgagee

Kings North Trust Ltd v Bell and Others. Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Justice Dillon and Justice Mustill.

Where under the influence of her husband a wife executed a mortgage of the matrimonial home without knowing his true purpose in obtaining the advance, her rights in the property retained their priority to the mortgagees' rights.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, allowed an appeal by Mrs. Katherine Eva Bell, the second defendant, against the decision of Judge Leach in the County Court that she should give possession of the property, The Old Rectory, Sleaford, Leicestershire, to the plaintiffs, Kings North Trust Ltd, who claimed as second mortgagees of the property.

A similar order was made against Mr. William Edwin Bell, but he did not appeal.

Mr. John Fryer Spedding for Mrs. Bell; Mr. Nicholas Davidson for the plaintiffs.

# Decisive change in power balance

## LABOUR'S PARTY POLITICAL BROADCASTS

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## Record of mental care criticized

By Nicholas Timmins,  
Social Services  
Correspondent

Powerful criticism of the policy of care in the community for the mentally ill and handicapped has come from the Commons Social Services Committee.

In a bluntly worded report the MPs say that "any fool can close a long-stay hospital. It takes more time and trouble to do it properly and compassionately."

The pace of removal of hospital facilities for the mentally ill has far outrun the provision of services in the community to replace them, the MPs say. That has produced "horror stories" of the mentally ill living on the streets, in miserable board and lodging and sleeping rough on park benches.

There is ample evidence of the deserting of patients from mental health hospitals in years past without sufficient development of services for them. This has produced a population of chronically mentally ill people with nowhere to go.

The committee has issued a warning that inappropriately discharged patients "may end up taking their own lives if not other people's."

The committee, nevertheless, provides backing for a properly ordered rundown of mental and mental handicap hospitals, saying it "wholeheartedly" supports a policy of community care for the mentally disabled.

It warns the government, however, that such a policy will cost more money, not less.

"We are at the moment producing a mental disability service which is under-financed and understaffed both in its health and social aspects," it says.

Proceeding with a policy of community care on a cost-neutral assumption is not simply naïve, it is positively inhumane. Community care on the cheap would prove worse in many respects than the pattern of services to date."

Only a real increase in spending spaced over some years will achieve genuine community care, the committee says.

Hospital services must not be reduced or closed before demonstrably adequate alternatives have been provided, both for those discharged and for those who would otherwise seek admission.

Because savings from run-down or closure of hospitals are mainly achieved only at the end of a rundown, the committee says the Department of Health and Social Security must create a central bridging fund to allow the new services to be financed and set up before closures take place.

Extra staff taken on by social services to run community care should be excluded from manpower controls.

Experience from the United States provides a powerful warning of what can happen if facilities, however imperfect, are closed before alternatives are provided. Lessons from such hasty and erratically funded change in other countries must be taken to heart in Britain, the committee says.

Community Care: Second report from the Social Services Committee 1984-85. (House of Commons Paper 13-1, Stationery office: £7.65).

## Sultan's gift will buy scanner

The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, is to spend part of a £1.5 million gift from the Sultan of Brunei on a new scanner.

The hospital said that the gift would help it to remain at the "forefront of clinical treatment of children."

## Dearer eggs

The price of large eggs will rise by 2p a dozen next week and the wholesale price of small eggs is going up by 4p a dozen, so their retail price could be even higher, Goldenlay, the egg farmers' co-operative, said yesterday.

## Paper to close

An East Sussex weekly newspaper, the *Brighton and Hove Gazette*, is to close on March 8 after 164 years. It will merge with a free distribution newspaper also published in the area by the Westminster Press Group. There are to be no redundancies.

## Improved Arts Council funding for regions delayed

By David Hewson  
Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council's plans to increase support for regional theatres and orchestras have been postponed because of uncertainty about local authority support for the scheme.

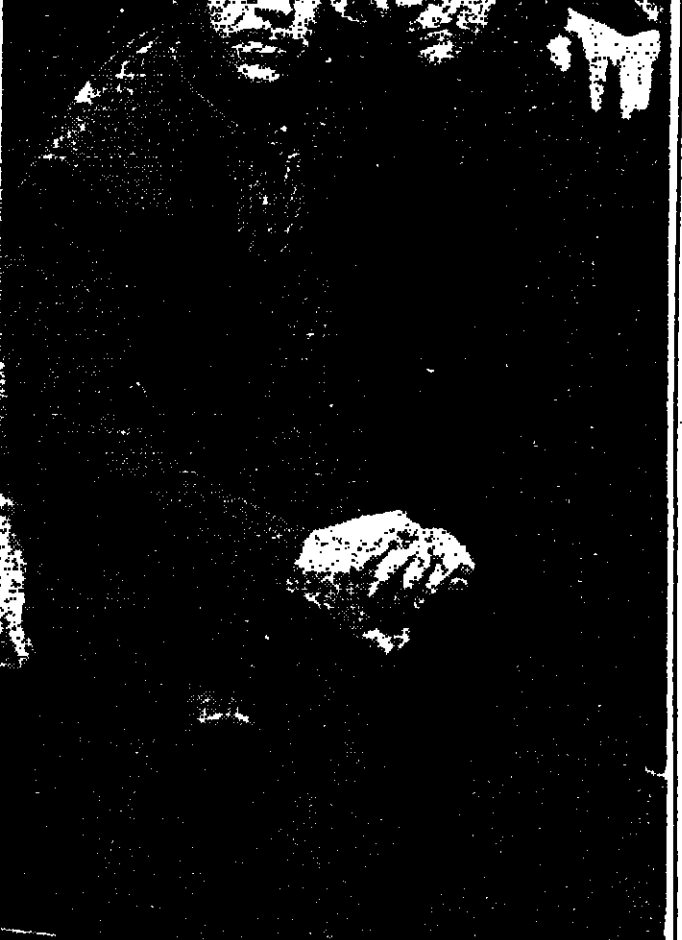
The council had intended to announce today an extra £3 million in aid for the regions, with up to £2 million in matching grants from local authorities. But the local authorities, predicts that the bulk of the available development money will go to large drama companies, to improve salaries of performers in dance companies, and to form new partnerships in the visual arts.

Details of the distribution of the development funds are now not expected to be released until March 29.

Most organizations have been limited to a 2 per cent increase, less than inflation. But Lord Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, included an extra £2 million in the budget specifically for the regional development programme outlined in last year's council document, *The Glory of the Garden*.

Northern Arts, the regional association, predicts that the bulk of the available development money will go to large drama companies, to improve salaries of performers in dance companies, and to form new partnerships in the visual arts.

## Couple hide in church



Mr and Mrs Nicola taking sanctuary in church yesterday in an attempt to avoid deportation (Photograph: Murray Job).

A Greek Cypriot couple have sought sanctuary in a church in a final attempt to avoid deportation (Richard Dowden writes).

Mr Vassilis Nicola, aged 34, and his wife, Katerina, aged 38, have been given refuge in the Anglican church of St Mary the Virgin, Euston, north London, and are prepared to stay there indefinitely. Their request to move into a Greek Orthodox church was refused by Archbishop Methodios Fouyas on the grounds that they would be breaking the law.

The couple live in the south east of the bleak nineteenth century church with two camp beds, three suitcases and flasks of coffee. The Community Relations Council brought them a portable gas fire.

"If I have to go back to Cyprus it would be terrible," Mr Nicola said. "We have no home and no job to go to."

Mr and Mrs Nicola arrived in Britain nine years ago after being driven from their home in north Cyprus during the Turkish invasion of the island in 1974. After receiving help from relatives Mr Nicola worked as a presser in a clothing factory

and his wife worked as a machinist.

Father Philip Dyson, vicar of St Mary's, said he was asked to give sanctuary to the couple by the Greek Cypriot community in the area. "It is not an inconvenience," he said. "It is a humanitarian gesture on the part of the church. It is the job of the church to care for the poor and the outcast."

The Home Office said that the Nicolaes came originally on a three-week visit. They have not produced evidence that they were displaced persons in Cyprus so they do not qualify for the concessions granted to Greek Cypriot refugees in 1982.

The adjudicator and the Immigration Appeals Tribunal have rejected their appeals and they were finally ordered to leave Britain yesterday.

Although sanctuary, under which fugitives from the civil law could claim immunity on consecrated ground which came under ecclesiastical law, has not had any validity since the Middle Ages, it is not thought that the police will enter the church to arrest the couple.

## Lupins may be farmers' bright hope

By John Young  
Agriculture Correspondent

Fields of white-flowered lupins could soon become a familiar feature of the English countryside, contrasting with the bright yellow of oilseed rape. If farmers can be persuaded of its value as a break crop and as a substitute for imported animal feed.

Last year some 200 hectares (450 acres) were planted on an experimental basis, largely as a result of an EEC decision to introduce a guaranteed price of £196.67 a tonne.

This week a seminar in London was held that the results had been encouraging in spite of less than ideal weather. Growers taking part in a scheme organized by a firm of grain and seed merchants expressed guarded enthusiasm, provided yields could be improved.

Mr John Hardy, seeds director of Kenneth Wilson Anglia Ltd, said that more than 2,000 acres were contracted to grow lupins this year.

Lupins can be used as forage or silage, or the seeds used as an ingredient of feed concentrates. They also have potential applications as food additives and in pharmaceutical manufacture.

The crop's main attraction is as a possible substitute for soya, of which the EEC imports large quantities. Soya is now being increasingly cultivated in southern France and in Italy, but it will not grow in northern latitudes, whereas lupins can be grown as far north as the Scottish borders.

## Husband talks his way to divorce

A retired engineer, Mr Albert Collins, talked his way to a divorce yesterday. His wife, Margaret, could not be expected to put up with his shouting and haranguing a moment longer, Mr Justice Hollis said.

Mr Collins, aged 67, would sit in their house all day in his pyjamas, shouting his opinions at anyone prepared to listen and even those not prepared to, the judge said.

"Anything will set him off, such as something he sees on TV or reads in the newspapers," the judge added. His "extraordinary behaviour" drove all his wife's friends from the house because whenever they came round he would launch forth in a tirade.

Mr Collins had a dark skin because his mother was Indian and his father an English soldier serving in India. He came to England in 1950 but had a "burning sense of grievance," the judge said.

The couple married in 1956 and have six children. From the time Mr Collins took early retirement in 1979 he hardly left the house except to collect his pension.

The judge said that Mrs Collins, a nurse, aged 49, could not be expected to put up with his behaviour and was entitled to a decree nisi.

Mr Collins, who conducted his own case, denied being unreasonable and said that the marriage could still be saved. He must now leave their home at Meredith Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. The judge said that he had "considerable sympathy" for him.

Mrs Collins said outside court: "I know marriage is meant to be give and take but he was not prepared to do anything. Now he's going to can always inviting my friends round and start life again."

Mr Collins said: "I feel I am entitled to my own views and have always believed in the freedom of speech and freedom of how to dress."

## Headless corpse was tourist from Nigeria

Detectives hunting the killer of a woman whose dismembered body was found on a rubbish tip at Putea, Essex, last November, may fly to Nigeria to interview her husband.

Essex police named her yesterday as Mrs Veronica Odoemenam, aged 31. Her husband, Mr Peter Fohi, aged 36, an airline pilot, returned alone to Nigeria on November 9.

Mrs Odoemenam's headless torso was discovered four days later among rubbish transferred by barge from Grosvenor wharf in central London. Detectives later found other parts of her body, including her head, but her right leg remains missing.

The body was identified last Friday when Mrs Odoemenam's sister arrived in Britain from Nigeria to look for her, and reported her missing.

## Industrial tribunal procedure simplified

By Frances Gibb  
Legal Affairs Correspondent

New measures aimed at speeding up and simplifying industrial tribunals which deal with unfair dismissal complaints, redundancy payment claims and other disputes, come into force today.

The changes will enable the tribunals to issue decisions in summary form, so that simpler, written findings can be issued more quickly. That will save time, accelerate tribunal procedures and remove some of the legal jargon, thus easing the tribunals' pressure of work.

The procedure for the past 20 years has been to give full reasons for tribunal decisions. These are often very detailed and run to several pages.

Other technical changes are aimed at helping applicants through the tribunal procedure. Legal aid is not available and therefore many applicants cannot afford a lawyer to represent them.

There has been concern both about the pressure of work on the tribunal and at the trend away from the original aim of a non-legalistic adjudication process accessible to the layman.

The changes will apply to 90 per cent of all cases heard by tribunals. The new speeded up procedure will not apply, however, where one of the parties to the case requests a full decision, nor in cases involving sex or race discrimination where full rulings will continue to be given.

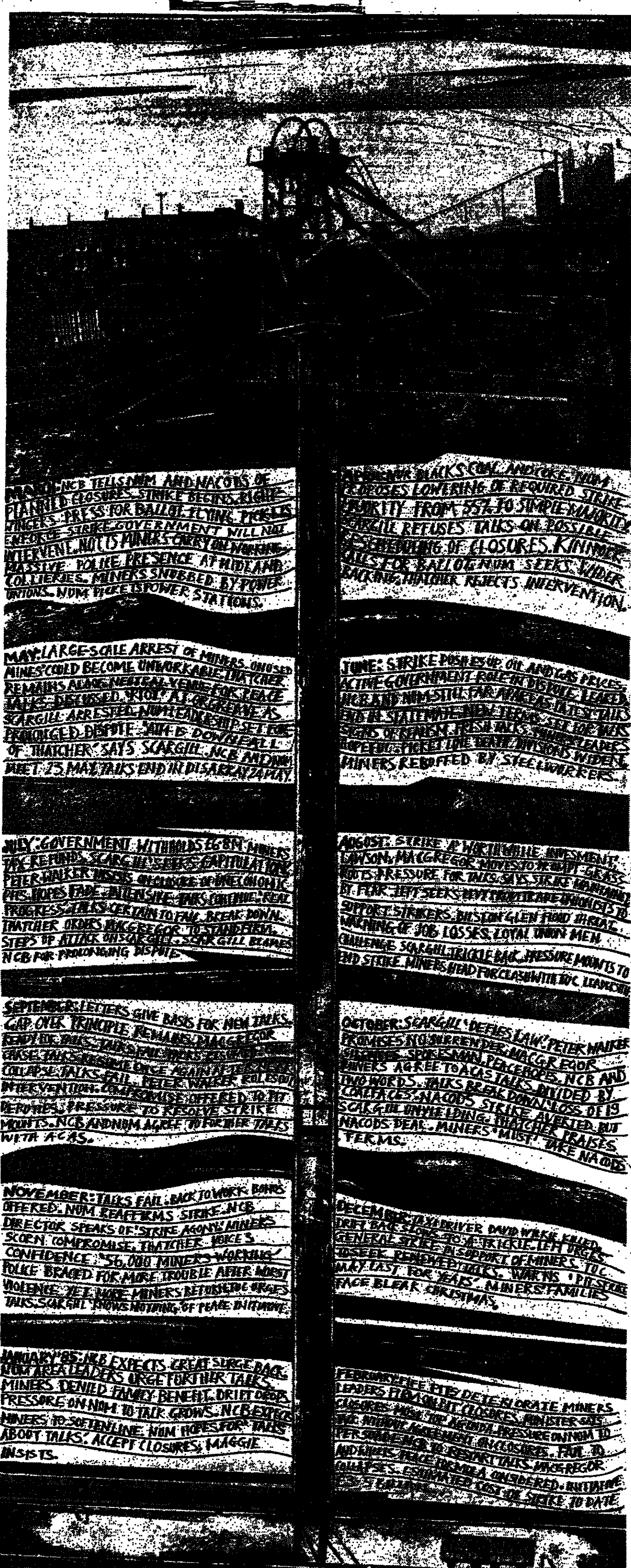
Industrial tribunals are independent judicial bodies consisting of a legally qualified chairman and two other members drawn from panels representative of employers and employees.

They were set up under the Industrial Training Act, 1964, and hear complaints under a number of Acts of Parliament.

In 1983 there were 39,959 applications to industrial tribunals and 16,785 hearings.

In a recent editorial the *Solicitors' Journal* called for the changes to be carefully monitored. They must not make it more difficult for litigants to appeal against tribunal decisions or for the Employment Appeal Tribunal to act as an effective appellate body.

Industrial tribunals, the journal said, have to interpret and apply complex and detailed statutory provisions of wide import. In giving their decisions in summary form, they must give cogent reasons so there can be no charge that "they dispense arbitrary justice and are inferior to ordinary courts."



## THE MINERS' STRIKE

Britain's pit of bitterness

Tonight, one year into the strike, leading ITV current affairs teams come together to assess the effect on the coal industry, and the country, of twelve months of Britain's most bitter industrial struggle for a generation.

Against the background of a dispute which has set father against son and family against family, Jonathan Dimbleby reports and reflects

on the human dimension. ITV teams in Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Newcastle and Birmingham seek to answer the question - what is the future of the industry now?

Brian Walden, with a team from *Weekend World* and a panel of leading politicians, reports on the effect of the strike on the nation and the lessons to be learned for the future.

TONIGHT AT 8-00-10-00 AND 10-30-11-15 ON ITV



AUSTIN ROVER



# In an economy drive, it left 115 cars behind.



In a recent survey of 116 cars carried out by "Company Car Cost Calculator," the Metro City came through as the most economical to buy and run.<sup>1</sup>

Simply nothing could match its combination of low buying and running costs, and healthy resale value.

Yet the Metro City neither looks nor feels like an economy car.

Indeed, "What Car?" was moved to say "In City form the Metro is surprisingly civilised and hardly seems like an economy car at all."<sup>2</sup>

But then style and comfort are very much characteristics of the entire Metro range.

## 3-Door and 5-Door.

Of the eight 3-door and five 5-door models, each and every one is fitted with soothing cloth upholstery and deep pile carpets.

Each and every one has a new sophisticated one-piece fascia with all controls within easy reach.

Each and every one now sports a new sculpted bonnet and grille for an even more pleasing aerodynamic shape.

Each and every one delivers excellent mpg. The 1.0 HLE will in fact record a staggering 67.6 mpg at 56 mph.

Also common to the entire range is a larger 7.8 gallon tank to lengthen the distance between fuel stops.

And a locking cap that ensures it stays that way.

## Economic price.

With all this and more, and prices starting at just £3,974 and stopping at £6,499, the Metro is more than just economic.

It's an economic miracle.

**AUSTIN  
METRO**  
From Austin Rover

<sup>1</sup> Leasecontracts - "Company Car Cost Calculator" & "What Car?" January 1985. Prices correct at time of going to press. Excl. number plates and delivery. DOT figures: Metro City simulated urban cycle 43.5 mpg/6.5 L per 100 km. Constant 56 mph 59.3 mpg/4.6 L per 100 km. Constant 75 mph 41.9 mpg/6.7 L per 100 km. Metro 1.0 HLE simulated urban cycle 48.1 mpg/5.9 L per 100 km. Constant 56 mph 67.6 mpg/4.2 L per 100 km. Constant 75 mph 46.4 mpg/6.1 L per 100 km.

Jelly 100 LSCA



## Nicaragua woos US with arms freeze and cut in Cuban advisers

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

### Soviet press hits at 'hypocrisy'

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Press yesterday stepped up its attack on US policies in Central America, accusing Washington of hypocrisy in declaring itself a champion of freedom while "drowning Nicaragua in blood".

Pravda said Washington was planning to frustrate a political settlement in the region while "assailing military manoeuvres" were being conducted close to Nicaragua.

part of the several hundred Cubans the Sandinistas say are training their Army, but only a small gesture if American estimates of several thousand advisers are accurate.

In the same Contadora context, Nicaragua declared an indefinite moratorium on the acquisition of new weapons systems, including the jet interceptor planes it requires to complete its air defence system. Fears that the Sandinistas might

get MIG fighters from the Soviet Union brought American warships to the Nicaraguan coast last November.

Scholar Ortega said that, in the face of allegations that his country threatened, the security of the US, he was prepared to swear that US foreign power would be allowed to build an anti-American base on Nicaraguan territory.

To disprove "the false argument of the United States Government about the supposed militarization of Nicaragua", he invited a congressional delegation to come and evaluate for itself.

In an effort to eliminate arguments standing in the way of regional peace, he would "take immediate practical steps" to overcome the problem which prevented the last Contadora meeting taking place on February 14.

Señor Ortega referred to a row with Costa Rica over the continuing detention by Sandinista police of a Nicaraguan Army deserter arrested in December at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua, where he had sought asylum.

He said the Nicaraguan initiative was motivated by the gravity of the regional situation which required the Government involved to show responsible, mature and flexible attitude.

## Washington sticks to its tough rhetoric

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration reacted aggressively to the Nicaraguan peace gesture yesterday, saying bluntly that there was nothing in its sending home 100 Cubans was "but a token". The White House accused the Managua Government of trying to influence Congress.

The Administration drew on its standard anti-Sandinista rhetoric to emphasise its belief that the Managua government remains bent on exporting left-wing revolution to other countries of Central America, especially El Salvador. The blunt language further emphasized President Reagan's determination to sustain his psychological war against the Sandinistas.

The Administration is convinced that the Nicaraguan gesture has been timed to influence attempts by President Reagan to wrest \$14 million (£12.6m) from a reluctant Congress to finance the 14,000 strong anti-Sandinista guerrilla army, which operates principally out of Honduras.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman emphasized that the administration "would welcome the opportunity for members of Congress with diverse views to go to Nicaragua for an open no-holds barred visit". He dismissed the "so called" peace initiative as a "show and tell" propaganda offensive.



In from the cold: Michael Troche, aged 2½, whose temperature was reduced to 60F, is welcomed by his mother, Mrs. James Troche, and his sister, Christina, as he emerges from the intensive care unit at Milwaukee Children's Hospital.

## Kinnock will reaffirm commitment to Nato

From a Correspondent, Brussels

Mr Neil Kinnock will confirm the Labour Party's commitment to Nato and its equally strong commitment to non-nuclear policies to Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, on a visit to Belgium next Tuesday.

The Labour leader is expected to travel to Nato's military headquarters near Mons the following day to meet General Bernard Rogers, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Nato sources say Mr Kinnock will be received courteously.

## Tanaka taken to hospital after a slight stroke

Tokyo - Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Japanese Prime Minister, is in hospital after a slight stroke (David Watts reports).

His doctors say that he has some paralysis of the right side and a slight speech impediment, but they expect these can be reversed with treatment.

## Craxi urges flexible approach to Russians

Rome (NYT) - The Italian Prime Minister, Signor Bettino Craxi, says the United States should give the Soviet Union guarantees on President Reagan's proposed missile-defence system so that arms negotiations in Geneva next month can move forward.

"We must declare from the very beginning the negotiability of this matter," Signor Craxi said in an interview on Monday.

He said that guarantees must be given on the system to overcome the preoccupations of the Russians. He did not specify what guarantees he thought would satisfy the Soviet Union. "This dialogue, which has just reopened, should not stop at its birth," he said.

Signor Craxi appeared to give less support to the American view of the missile defence than Britain or West Germany have. Mr Reagan has said he wants the United States to conduct research on a space-based defence against nuclear missiles regardless of the outcome of the arms talks in Geneva, which begins on March 12.

But on Wednesday a top aide to Signor Craxi, sensitive to the Prime Minister's use of the world's "negotiability," emphasized that the Italian leader was not ruling out the possibility that he would eventually take a position similar to that of Mrs Thatcher.

Callaghan's view, page 16

### Demand for withdrawal to border

## Israel agonizes over pullout timetable

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

In the face of mounting pressure for a speeded-up withdrawal from Lebanon, the crucial debate inside Israel's National Unity Government to agree on a timetable for stage two of the retreat began yesterday with a meeting of the inner Cabinet.

As the senior ministers talked, more than 40 angry reserve paratroopers who had recently returned from service in Lebanon demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's office demanding an immediate fall-back to the international border.

One protester, Mr Yossi Lessing, spoke of fear among the soldiers now based in Lebanon and claimed there was mass support among both officers and men there for a rapid evacuation. He claimed that the Government's plan for a three-stage withdrawal was not "the optimum decision".

According to political sources, a final vote on the timetable for stage two will be taken when the full Cabinet meets on Sunday. Only a minority of ministers are at present understood to back the idea of stages two and three being merged into one single pull-back to the border.

Although nothing was said publicly about yesterday's discussion, both Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, and Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, are understood to favour sticking to the original broad timetable, which foresees Israeli troops remaining in parts of southern Lebanon until well into the summer.

Military sources said last night that it was possible that no deadline would be set for the conclusion of stage two - which

### UNIFIL CONTINGENTS

Fiji	625
Finland	500
France	1490
Ghana	705
Iraq Republic	730
Italy (helicopter unit)	48
Netherlands	165
Nepal	885
Norway	850
Sweden (medical unit)	160

involves disengaging from the line facing Syrian troops in the eastern sector - to increase the flexibility allowed to the army. They envisaged stage two being completed by early May at the latest.

"While some ministers have been pressing for a speeded-up withdrawal in reaction to the recent increase in guerrilla attacks against Israeli forces, there are others on the right wing who are now believed to be pressing for a permanent Israeli military presence to be maintained in a security belt between the border to the River Litani."

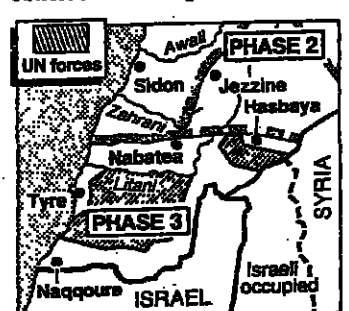
Under the terms of the original Cabinet decision and on the pull-out, the Cabinet will have to meet again separately to approve the timing of stage three. That decision is expected to be much more difficult to reach than that scheduled for Sunday, involving the second stage.

● NEW YORK: A strong defence of United Nations peacekeeping operations in southern Lebanon has been issued by Señor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, in the wake of Israeli claims that the French contingent in particular has taken obstructionist measures against the Israelis.

Señor Perez de Cuellar made it a point to praise the "steadfastness" of the French force when he paid tribute to the work of the UN troops in a report to members of the Security Council and to countries contributing troops, who had expressed concern at the growing number of incidents between the UN forces and the retreating Israeli troops.

Meanwhile, Lebanon yesterday took to the Council its complaint against the Israeli anti-Shia raids, as UN efforts were being made to get the two Governments back to the negotiating table at Naqoura so that the final phases of Israeli withdrawal could proceed in an uneventful and orderly fashion.

It was not clear whether Lebanon in initiating the council debate, would seek a formal censure of Israel.



After withdrawing Israeli troops from the Awali river on February 16, the Israeli cabinet will meet this weekend to discuss the scheduling for the second and third phases of the Israeli pullout from Southern Lebanon.

## Troops set up another Lebanon front line

From Robert Fisk, Tyre

Hundreds of Israeli troops in armoured personnel carriers, tanks and trucks clogged the snow-covered mountain roads south of Jezzine yesterday as Israel established its third front line in Lebanon in preparation for a further withdrawal from the country.

Heavy lorries carried prefabricated buildings, stoves and watchtowers up the slippery mountain roads as the new line emerged, running in a string of military bases from behind the Christian town of Jezzine on the spine of the Barouk mountains down to the Litani river south of the ruined Crusader castle of Beaufort.

Yesterday morning, I watched several hundred Israeli soldiers struggling to keep their mile-long convoys on the roads as snow drifted down the valleys high above the Bekaa plain. Bulldozers and earth removing vehicles specially brought up from the Israeli frontier were gouging new roads and vehicle parks out of the rock and earth on the mountain tops.

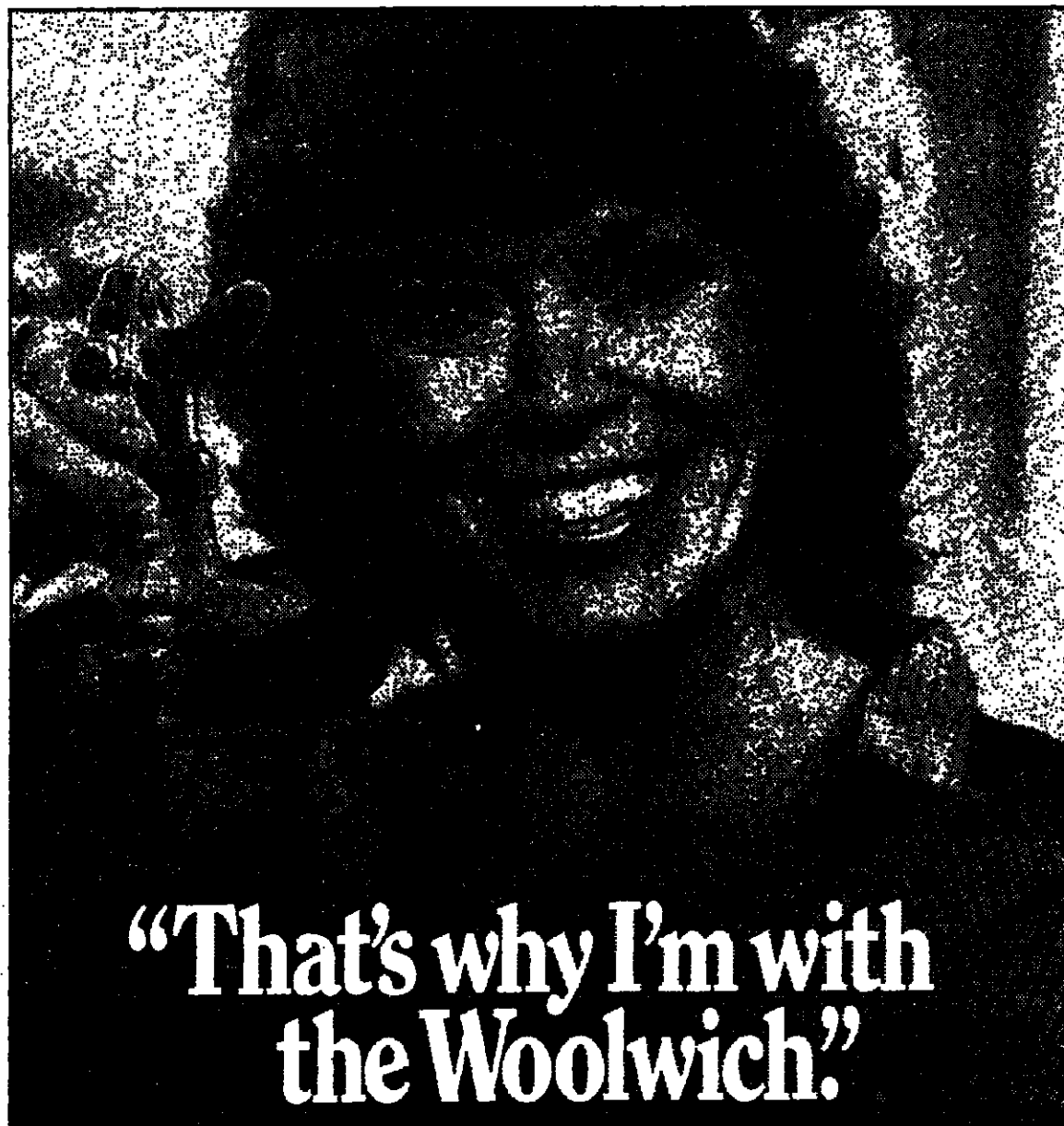
Further south, the Israelis

had cordoned off acres of hillsides and several small forests, ploughed the earth and hung placards on barbed wire around the areas saying in Hebrew, Arabic and English: "Danger - Mines". Some of the posters also carried a skull and crossbones. The minefields, if indeed explosives have been planted there, appear to be designed to prevent roadside ambushes and also to prevent guerrillas from firing rockets across the Israeli frontier.

If the Israelis are preparing to leave Lebanon altogether by this summer as they say, they are spending many millions of pounds in building this new line which will presumably contain Israel's last occupation zone in Lebanon. The line runs south of Nabatieh - a Shiite Muslim town where the Israelis have encountered daily ambushes - and across the Litani river near the Khardali bridge.

A whole series of new military roads is also being constructed between the Litani and the Israeli frontier, which itself suggests that the Israeli Army could be preparing for a longer stay than envisaged.

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## Mubarak's Middle East initiative PLO puts brake on progress

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem.

Prospects for President Mubarak's latest Middle East peace initiative appeared uncertain last night despite a positive response from Israel, which has accepted in principle the invitation to join Cairo talks with US, Egyptian and joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations.

The Israeli reply - made in a speech by the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres - was followed within hours by firm indications that the Palestine Liberation Organization was rejecting the suggestion first launched by Mr Mubarak in a New York Times interview.

Mr Muhammad Milhem, a moderate member of the PLO executive and a deposed West Bank mayor, dismissed the Egyptian initiative as "a deviation" from the recent PLO-Jordanian accord. He said it would be unacceptable, even if the Palestinian part of the delegation was made up of PLO members - a demand rejected out of hand by Israel.

The reaction from Mr Milhem, who lives in exile in Amman, has cast doubt on the willingness of prominent West Bank Palestinians to take part in any delegation, or indeed on the attitude which King Hussein of Jordan will adopt. Senior Israeli sources describe his reaction as long crucial to the initiative's future.

The fragmentation in the Arab world has overshadowed the difference inside Israel's National Unity Government, with the Labour Party adopting a much more enthusiastic stance than the right-wing Likud bloc. Any meaningful negotiations about the future of the West Bank would almost certainly bring the Israel Government down.

Late on Wednesday night, Mr Peres had briefly raised some hopes that a breakthrough might be imminent with his speedy acceptance of Mr Mubarak's invitation.

Mr Peres, praised by Mr

Mubarak for his flexibility, stipulated only one condition: no PLO members must be involved in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But privately some government sources have hinted that it would have been practically impossible to completely eliminate PLO supporters from the talks.

Speaking to an enthusiastic audience of British Jews, Mr Peres stated unequivocally: "The suggestion that the Jordanian delegation may be a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation is again acceptable to Israel. Palestinians, but not terrorists, but not the PLO."

We invite people who are ready to use a microphone, but not a pistol, who are ready to talk, but not to shoot."

Yesterday the flurry of diplomatic exchanges between Jerusalem and Cairo continued when Mr Avraham Tamir, director-general of the Israel Prime Minister's office, arrived

in Egypt bearing another personal message for President Mubarak from Mr Peres. It was believed to have formalized Israel's acceptance in principle.

Israeli officials are satisfied at the result so far of the Mubarak initiative. They claimed that the events of the past 48 hours had done much to unfreeze the so-called "Cold Peace" between Israel and Egypt, even if they eventually failed to advance the wider Middle East peace process. One outcome of this week's activity may be to increase greatly the chances of a Mubarak-Peres summit. Mr Peres has already invited the Egyptian leader for talks anywhere along their joint border.

The willingness of Israel to go along with the Mubarak plan has caused much anxiety among Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank. They have threatened a spectacular reaction if there is any suggestion that negotiations about the territory are to begin with the Arabs.

## Chernenko shows his face in public again

From Richard Owen, Moscow.

Tass yesterday reported that President Chernenko had made a further public appearance after his two-month absence from public view.

The news agency said the Soviet leader had taken part in a ceremony at which he was presented with his credentials as a parliamentary (Supreme

Soviet) deputy for the Russian Republic after last Sunday's local elections.

A Tass photograph of the occasion was released, but it was not immediately clear whether television film would be shown.

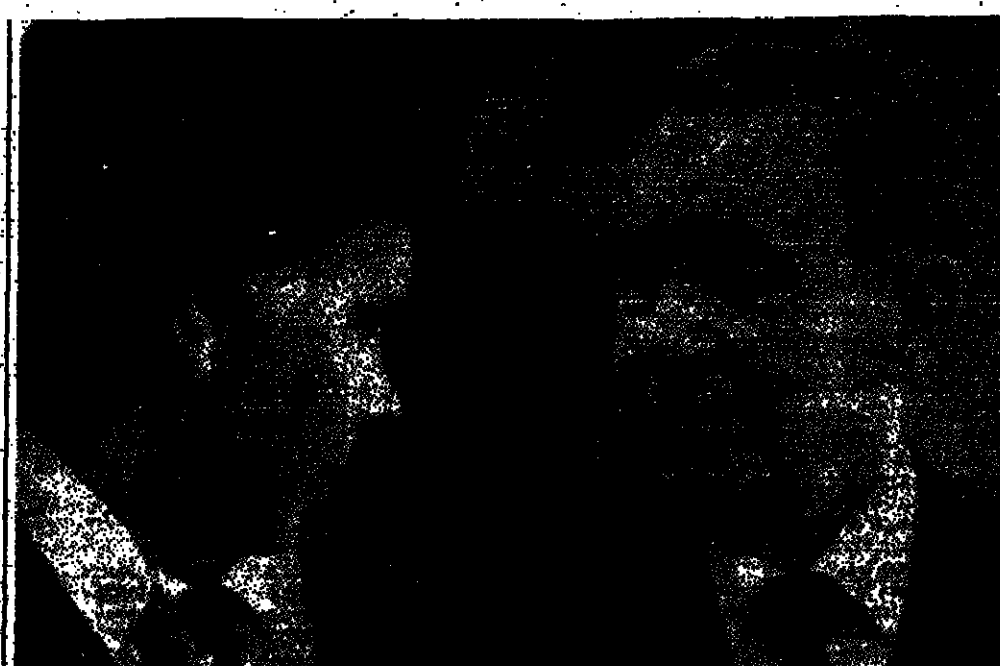
On Sunday Moscow television showed a brief film of Mr Chernenko casting his vote, but strong doubts were raised over

where and when the film had been shot. Observers said it had obviously been carefully edited to show the ailing leader in the best light, but he still looked pale and unsteady and could scarcely walk or talk. He was shown in a private room with no other voters present.

Mr Chernenko, aged 73, suffers from emphysema, a lung complaint, and has heart prob-

lems. Tass said he emphasized his policy of enhancing the role of the soviets in political life, and thanked the electorate for placing their trust in him.

Tass yesterday released a message from Mr Chernenko to residents of a war veterans' home at Grand Rapids, Michigan. He told the veterans, who had also, written to President Reagan, that he shared their fears of nuclear war.



Spanish greetings: The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, is welcomed in Madrid yesterday by the Spanish Prime Minister, Señor Felipe González.

## Spain heads off Gromyko plea

From Richard Wigg, Madrid.

Spain will not be taking any immediate position on the "Star Wars" aspect of the forthcoming Geneva arms talks, Señor Fernando Morán, the Foreign Minister, declared when he met Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, at the start of a 48-hour official visit.

Señor Morán, apparently preempting any repetition in Madrid of the appeal Mr Gromyko made to the Italians against the American research programme earlier in the week, said Spain intended to study the question.

Mr Gromyko lunched with

Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister. The Spanish Prime Minister left afterwards for Montevideo to attend today's inauguration of Uruguay's new civilian president.

Mr Gromyko's visit comes at a tempting moment for Moscow. Spain has still to settle its exact relation with Nato, and Señor González has insisted, after revelations of "past" US contingency plans to stockpile nuclear depth charges at the Rota base, that Spain will not permit such arms on its soil while he remains Prime Minister.

General Vernon Walters,

President Reagan's special envoy, saw Señor González and King Juan Carlos yesterday in an attempt to smooth Madrid's ruffled feathers after a series of incidents, which have strained relations with Washington.

These included the expulsion of two US diplomats accused of spying on the Prime Minister's office, and Washington's shilling the dates of President Reagan's proposed visit to Madrid in May without consulting the Spaniards.

Señor Morán emphasized yesterday that the Russians would not try to take advantage of the strains.

## Gibraltar link in car arson attacks

Gibraltar - Spanish police are investigating suspected arson attacks on three cars, one registered in Gibraltar and the others in Britain, at the border town of La Línea (Dominique Scott writes).

Similar attacks were reported on the night the Spanish lifted border restrictions last month. After the latest incident, on Wednesday night, bottles with traces of petrol were found near the gutted cars.

● HONG KONG: To the deafening noise of fire-truck sirens, British and Chinese officials yesterday celebrated the opening of a new vehicular crossing between Hong Kong and the mainland at the border village of Shau Kok (David Bonavia writes).

The opening, the result of a 1982 co-operation agreement between China and Hong Kong, will help supply the construction project for a nuclear power plant being built by the Chinese at Daya Bay, just over the border.

## Drugs horror

New York (Reuters) - Three men were bound and shot in the head, and five other adults wounded when a gang broke into a Brooklyn home, apparently in a drug-related rampage. The intruders also attempted to strangle a child and drown another but they survived.

## Soccer protest

Athens - Demonstrators against human rights abuses of the Greek minority in Albania booted Albania's national soccer team after it lost to Greece in a World Cup qualifying match here and harassed players and the Albanian Ambassador when they returned to the embassy.

## Rajavi divorce

Auver-sur-Oise, France (AP) - Massoud Rajavi, the exiled Iranian guerrilla leader, has divorced the daughter of his former ally, deposed Iranian President Bani-Sadr, the Mujahedin Khalq guerrilla organization announced.

## Pass the valium

Basle (Reuters) - Hoffman-La Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical giant, foresees that a "thin period" in its American business could lie ahead now that its US patent on the tranquilliser Valium, worth \$250 million a year in sales, has expired.

## Mengle charge

Prague (Reuters) - Czechoslovakia's official Rude Pravo accused Washington of having obstructed the arrest of the Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele by suppressing information of his whereabouts in 1971.

## Sahara talks

Paris (Reuters) - Algeria and Morocco have been holding secret talks to try to resolve the nine-year-old Western Sahara conflict, the Algerian news agency said.

## Gale havoc

Jakarta (AFP) - More than 100,000 people have been left homeless after gale-force winds left a trail of destruction through the South Bandung region, about 150 miles southeast of here.

## Cape oil find

Johannesburg (Reuters) - South Africa said it had struck oil off the Cape coast but expected the oil-bearing area would be limited.

## Donkey clean-up

Nairobi (AP) - The district officer of the Indian Ocean town of Lamu of Kenya, appealed to local craftsmen to devise baskets, leather buckets or cloth nappies to be tied to donkeys to keep the streets clean.

## Walesa disappoints activists

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw.

of Solidarity, addressed workers in the Gdansk shipyards yesterday and urged them to take part in a massive petition campaign pressing for the release of political prisoners rather than staging a protest strike against planned price rises.

The underground Solidarity leadership this week called off a 15-minute general strike scheduled for Thursday after the Polish Government decided not to introduce across-the-board increases of food prices.

Mr Walesa said the leadership said in a joint statement that the Government's decision was a response to the "efficient negotiations" for a strike by the opposition.

But many young Solidarity supporters were already braced for a protest and complained to Mr Walesa yesterday that the union was giving up ground for nothing. The Government has decided to stagger the price rises through the summer and has not abandoned the principle of the price-rise.

"There is some resistance in the shipyard and other workplaces against calling off such a beautifully prepared action", said the Solidarity chairman.

Mr Walesa tried to persuade the younger workers in the Lenin yards - birthplace of Solidarity in August, 1980 - that their energies should be channelled into sending thousands of letters and petitions to the Polish Parliament and to the Council of State, pressing for the release of political prisoners.

Diplomats estimate that there are now about 40 political prisoners in Poland, including 20 who were not freed under last July's amnesty. Some 2,000 out of 35,000 common criminals freed by the authorities have also been re-arrested.

"Many of the young workers - the middle-aged tend to agree with Lech - think that the postal action is too weak. It would cost a fortune, about 100 million zloties (about £64,000) in postage if the present plans are carried out, and in any case the Post Office would end up refusing to deliver the protests", explained informed sources in Gdansk.

## Amnesty row faces new Uruguay President

From Douglas Tweedale, Montevideo.

Uruguay's first elected President in nearly 12 years, Señor Julio Sanguinetti, takes office today in a ceremony that symbolizes the democratic revival sweeping South America.

Ten heads of state, six vice-presidents and dozens of foreign ministers will be attending the inauguration which is likely to turn into a mini-summit. President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua will be a guest of honour.

Señor Sanguinetti, a moderate, takes office after more than 11 years of harsh military rule during which human rights groups estimate that one out of every 50 Uruguayans was

arrested and one of every 500 was tortured.

Señor Sanguinetti faces a host of economic and political problems.

Left-wing opposition parties have proposed a blanket amnesty for approximately 280 political prisoners, ignoring a request from Señor Sanguinetti to wait for an official Bill.

The lower House of Parliament began debating the amnesty Bill yesterday.

On the economic front Señor Sanguinetti will have to cope with Uruguay's worst recession since the 1930s with 15 per cent unemployment and \$5 billion foreign debts to pay back.

## Treholt secrets admission

Oslo - Arne Treholt, the Norwegian former junior minister charged with spying for Moscow, told an Oslo court yesterday of his connections over several years with senior KGB officers Ulf Aanesnes

and for frequent meetings with Mr Gennadi Titov, his most important KGB contact, were "partly a kind of social courtesy".

sensitive enough to put Norwegian security at risk.

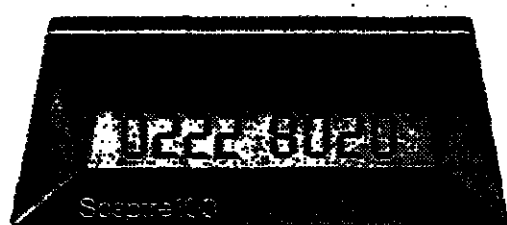
Shortly after his arrest last year he confessed to having given the KGB classified information on a large scale. He withdrew his confession later.

Mr Treholt said his motives for frequent meetings with Mr Gennadi Titov, his most important KGB contact, were "partly a kind of social courtesy".

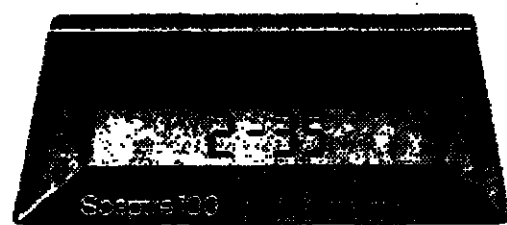
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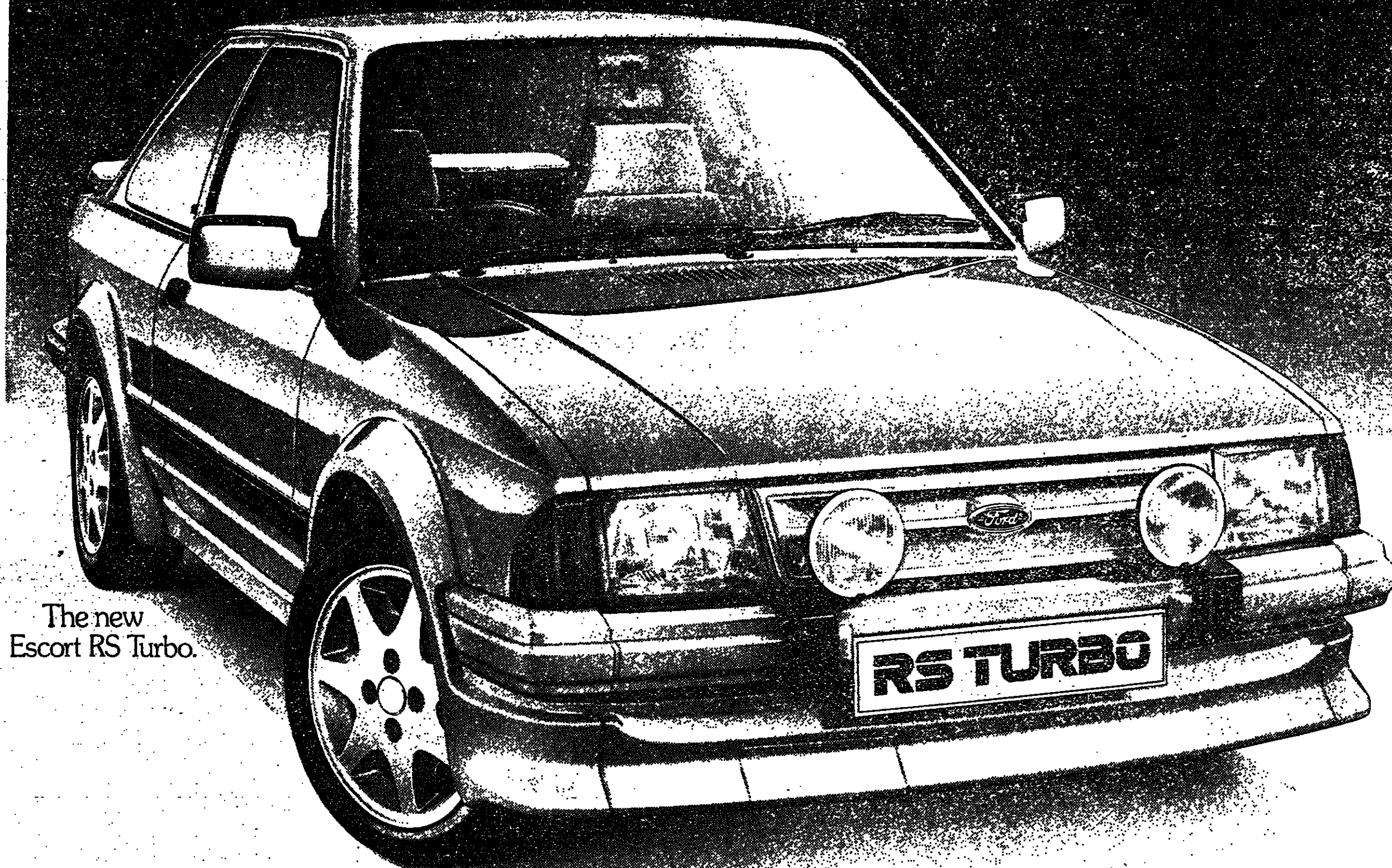
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# Lange laughs off fears of rift with Britain over anti-nuclear policy

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Soviet Union would never succeed in detaching his country from its Western allies. New Zealand's Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, said yesterday. Not even the United States had managed to do that.

"When the Soviet Ambassador called at my office last Friday I told him to mind his own business and to stop being a mischief maker," he told a London press conference.

He was speaking for the first time in Britain since being told by the United States that it was cutting down on defence co-operation with New Zealand, after his Government's refusal to allow American nuclear-capable warships into New Zealand ports.

Contrary to the first impression he gave in Los Angeles two days ago, Mr Lange seemed to be taking a philosophical, if not sanguine, approach to his quarrel with Washington.

Yes, there would be a morale problem in the armed forces, he admitted. An officer studying at a US military academy who was suddenly told he would not be replaced, or another who had spent his life specializing on the Czechoslovak order of battle and was told no more information would be forthcoming, would suffer a loss of morale.

But the tightening of the tap on the flow of intelligence from Washington was designed to embarrass New Zealand, not to weaken it, he said.

Mr Lange did not sound like a man who was embarrassed or had suffered a loss of morale. Nor did he sound in awe of his

confrontation next Monday with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who has already clarified whose side she is on.

He admitted she had been as forthright with him in private as she had been in public on television, but scoffed at suggestions of a rift between this country and New Zealand.

"Look," he roared, "I left the hotel today, went down to the old places, had a bacon sandwich for breakfast with brown sauce, sat down and had a couple of cups of tea. Three of us had breakfast for £5.25. Where in the world could a New Zealander enjoy himself as much as that?"

"Relations between our two governments have never been better. There is a closeness in the relationship which we cannot really see loosening. We don't stand identically on everything. But we're long-time mates - and we seem to marry a lot of them!" (He has a British wife.)

He dismissed American fears that New Zealand's anti-nuclear stance could encourage European allies to reject US nuclear missiles. His country's policy had not even been reported to Australia 1,200 miles away, let alone to Europe 12,000 miles distant. It was just not a reasonable scenario.

New Zealand was different from West Europe because it had never been part of the nuclear alliance. Now it was telling the United States it did not want to join.

"We are not going to celebrate the start of a new wave

of arms talks by being the first to invite nuclear weapons into the South Pacific," he said.

Mr Lange, who sees the Queen today and will speak against nuclear weapons at the Oxford Union tonight, said of the American riposte: "If they really want to attack us they should cut off Dallas and The A Team, or the top 40 Country and Western."

● SYDNEY: Britain will continue arms sales to New Zealand, although the United States had curtailed defence co-operation with Wellington because of its anti-nuclear policies, the Minister for Defence Procurement, Mr Adam Butler, said yesterday (Reuters reports).

● CANBERRA: The Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, said yesterday he may call an emergency meeting of the Anzus nations to discuss the rift caused by New Zealand's ban on US nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed warships.

## ANC man freed after pledge

Johannesburg (Reuters) - South Africa released Dennis Goldberg, a leader of the banned African National Congress, after more than 20 years in jail and allowed him to fly to Israel.

The state radio said Mr Goldberg, a white, was the first of eight ANC leaders convicted at a mass trial in 1964 to accept President Botha's offer of an amnesty if they renounced violence.



Long-time mates: Mr Lange meets the press after breakfast on a bacon sandwich

## Reagan insists subsidies must go

# Farmers pray for change of heart

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

America's farmbelt is in crisis. Intense political passions have been roused in the Midwest by President Reagan's decision to scrap or reduce the complex system of federal farm supports created under Roosevelt's New Deal, effectively casting most farmers to the vagaries of the open market.

Both Houses of Congress on Wednesday approved emergency credit relief for debt-ridden farmers facing bankruptcy on the eve of the spring planting season.

The 318-103 vote in the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives was no surprise, but the Administration was unexpectedly rebuffed by the Republican-controlled Senate, which voted successively 54 to 45 and 50 to 48. The votes represented a big defeat for President Reagan. The White House maintained its position yesterday that Mr Reagan would veto the "budget-busting" legislation.

In an exceptional outburst of political passion, hundreds of legislators and governors from 15 midwestern states - including the entire 105-member legislature of South Dakota -

barnstormed Congress this week in a vain attempt to change the Administration's mind.

President Reagan's long-term farm plan is savage. The proposals would end set minimum prices for base commodities, such as corn and wheat. They would cut dairy price-support rates, end guaranteed support rates, and phase out direct operating loans to farmers.

President Reagan remains resolute that farmers must bear their share of attempts to cut the federal deficit. He warned that farmers and their banks should not expect the taxpayers to bail them out.

About 14,000 farmers bowed their heads in silence on Wednesday in the farming town of Ames, Iowa, to pray for help to "open the callous hearts and minds" of the Administration.

In Washington members of Congress planted white crosses near the White House in a mock funeral on Wednesday to illustrate the plight of indebted farmers. Planting of crosses for failed farmers began in Wayne County, Iowa, and has spread across the Midwest.

## Submarine reported lost

Washington (AP) - Soviet and North Korean ships are attempting to raise a North Korean submarine that sank in 330 ft of water, but US intelligence analysts believe the entire crew has perished, CBS News said on Wednesday night.

The network also reported that US and South Korean officials were concerned about the potential military threat posed by 37 US-made Hughes helicopters that were diverted illegally to North Korea.

Neither Japanese nor South Korean officials could confirm the report, but officials of the Japanese Defence Agency said they were investigating it.

## Strikers try to ground Pan Am

New York (AP) - Transport union workers went on strike against Pan American World Airways throughout the United States early yesterday, saying they had enough support from other unions to ground most of the 400 daily flights.

International flights scheduled to arrive in the US yesterday would be handled, company officials said, but they were unable to say what would happen to later departures and arrivals.

A Pan Am spokesman in London said that the number of daily flights from Heathrow to the US were being reduced from seven to four. Reservations made on the cancelled flights were being transferred to those still scheduled.

Pan Am pilots have promised to honour picket lines set up by the TWU, which represents 5,800 mechanics, baggage handlers, flight dispatchers and food service workers.

The TWU has asked for a 14 per cent wage rise to recoup awards its members agreed to postpone in 1982. On Tuesday the company offered a 4 per cent increase in each of the next three years.

Pan Am has asked its 19,000 unionized employees for productivity gains and big reductions in pension and health-care benefits.

The airline had a pre-tax operating loss of \$106.7 million last year.

## Parlez-vous Franglais? Non, je suis Français

From Diana Geddes Paris

The French are going to war again against one of their favourite *déjà-vus*. Le Franglais. The Socialist group in the National Assembly has just published a private members' bill to strengthen and extend existing legislation banning the use of anglicisms on radio and television, and in advertising, commercial transactions and public documents; and the Government is expected to follow suit with a Bill of its own within the next few weeks.

Le Franglais is not a laughing matter for many Frenchmen. They are genuinely worried by what they regard as the serious threat posed to their native language and to their very national identity by the invasion of Anglo-American jargon.

Some believe that it can and must be stopped by legislation. Others are more sceptical about the ability of the law to prevent a natural evolution of the language, and indeed wonder whether it is even healthy.

The existing law on the defence of the French language, passed unanimously by deputies of all parties under President Giscard d'Estaing in 1975, has not had much visible success.

There have been prosecutions - about 200 companies and individuals were condemned for infringing the law last year. But the penalties hardly serve as a deterrent. The maximum fine is 600 francs (£54). Damages may also be required to be paid if a civil action has also been brought by a body, such as the Association Générale des usagers de la Langue Française, which was set up specifically in 1977 for that purpose. But there again, the amount of damages awarded is usually minimal.

In fact, the new Bill's provisions do not seem very different from the existing legislation, apart from the fact that trade marks, names of companies, and shop signs could for the first time be included under the general ban on the use of "foreign words" (which, in effect, means English), where an equally good French word or translation already exists, or has recently been "invented" and promulgated by one of the 12 government commissions on French terminology, whose job is precisely to fill any glaring gaps in the French language.

The Bill's sponsors cite the name "Blue Way" given to a new brand of Gauloises Cigarettes; a pâtisserie in the Boulevard St Germain called "Croissant Show"; a new Renault car model to be called "Macadam Star" and a leisure wear shop bearing the sign "Mad Engine".

The existing Law, more honoured in its breach than its observance, does allow some exceptions to the overall ban on foreign words. Foreign produce, for which there is no real French equivalent, is allowed to keep its name, for example, as in "whisky", "paella", and "vodka".

But other English terms, such as "computer", "cameraman", "brainstorming", and "jumbo jet", which were creeping into current usage, are not allowed, and become respectively "ordinateur", "cadreur", "remue ménages" and "appareil gros-porteur".

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## Bhutto party wins 38 seats in poll

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

Thirty-eight seats in Pakistan's National Assembly election were officially stated yesterday to have been won by former members of the Pakistan People's Party of the late Prime Minister Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, although the party had directed supporters to boycott the polls.

They are thus the second largest group in a party less than a year old, the Muslim League of the Pir of Pagara, whose supporters secured 42 out of 237 seats.

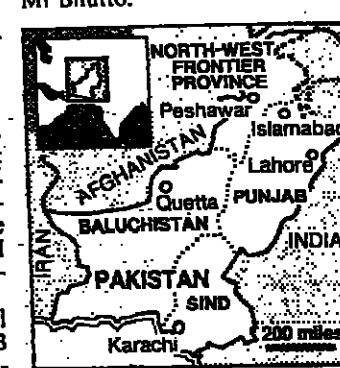
According to an official analysis of the elections which debarred political party-sponsored candidates, the heaviest defeat was suffered by the right-wing, politico-religious Jamaat-Islami, often described as the military Government's political wing. The Jamaat's 30 candidates won only nine seats.

Five of the nine federal ministers were defeated and 63 members of General Zia al-

Haq's Federal Council failed to get elected.

General Zia yesterday rejected suggestions that the defeat of his supporters was an expression of the people's lack of confidence in him.

Mr Ali Ahmad Talpur, the Defence Minister, blamed his defeat on opposition propaganda which had painted him as the jail executioner who hanged Mr Bhutto.



## Peking imprisons three entertainers for spying

Peking (AP) - A Chinese court has sentenced three entertainers, including a member of the Army, to prison on charges of spying for Taiwan, recruiting anti-communist agents and inciting defections of Air Force pilots. The Government announced yesterday.

It was one of the biggest spy cases revealed by Peking in the 36-year-old political dispute between the Communist mainland and the capitalist island.

The Ministry of State Security, China's intelligence agency, said Xin Peiwen, aged 46, an entertainer in an army cultural troupe, was sentenced to 10 years for contacting Taiwan

agents in October, 1983, through an unidentified friend who lived abroad and conveying a top-secret party document to the agents last March.

The two others sentenced were Su Mao, aged 27, a musician in Peking's central ballet company, who was given seven years, and his uncle, Li Riang, aged 39, an actor in the capital's experimental opera troupe, who was given three years.

The statement did not explain when the three were arrested or tried, but said the sentences were handed down by the Peking Intermediate People's Court.

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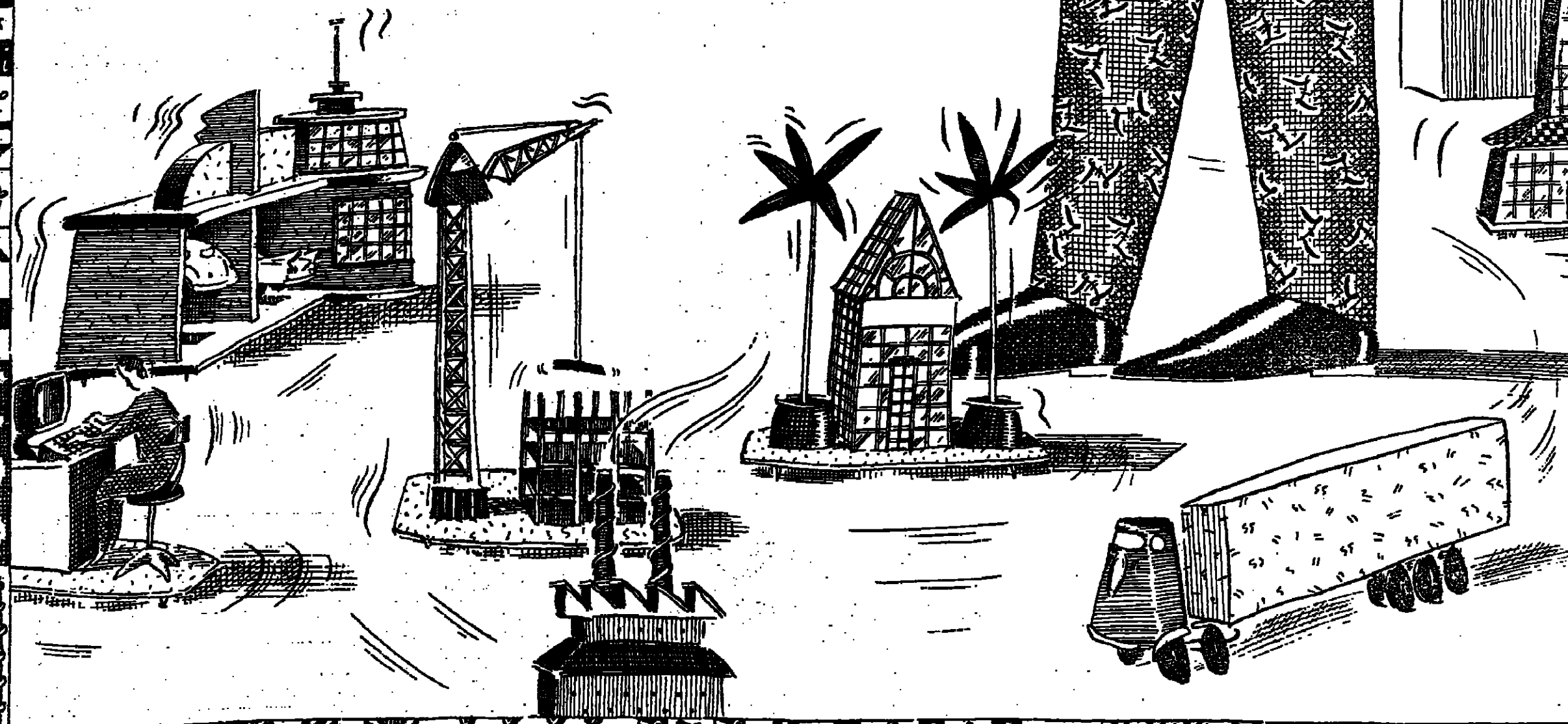
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## India's upper castes rebel over special favours granted 'Untouchables'

From Michael Hamlyn  
Delhi

The giant central state of Madhya Pradesh was paralysed yesterday by a general strike called by students protesting at proposals by the state Government to increase reserved places at colleges and in state jobs for the so-called backward castes.

In Gujarat, too, continuing agitation against similar plans by the Government there led yesterday to death and injury among bus passengers whose vehicles were set on fire.

It has long been an article of faith in the Indian Government that the Untouchables, those whom Mahatma Gandhi called Harijans or God's People - should be favoured to uplift their status and achievement. Indeed, the special position of both Harijans and tribespeople, the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, is elaborated in the country's Constitution.

But the upper castes, mostly the former priestly Brahmins or the warrior Kshatriyas, have finally, it seems, had enough. And it does seem that the reservation of places and jobs has got out of hand. A new spirit of illiberalism is abroad in India. The upper classes are revolting at the extent of favour shown to the lower.

Mr Arjun Singh, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, has brought forward proposals - which his enemies say are simply an election gimmick to garner votes in tomorrow's state election - which would increase the number of reserved places at state colleges to about 74 per cent - students claim the figure will be 78 per cent.

### Falcon omen sealed fate of Mrs Gandhi

Delhi (AP) - Mrs Indira Gandhi suffered 24 bullet wounds on October 31 when she was fatally shot by two Sikh members of her security guards, according to the first government report on her injuries. Mrs Gandhi was hit on both sides of her chest, thigh, right shoulder and back. Another report said two of the alleged conspirators agreed that a falcon they had spotted on a tree last September had brought "a message from the 10th Guru of the Sikhs" to avenge the Indian Army assault on Amritsar's Golden Temple.

At present not only are there places held for students from the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, but also for former freedom fighters, ex-servicemen, those below the poverty line, and women. Now the Government is planning to add various named castes defined as backward and another 25 per cent of places will thus be occupied.

Under the present system, with only about 49 per cent of places reserved, the lowest mark that a student who had no reserved place needed to enter Maulana Azad College for Technology last year was said to be 80 per cent. The lowest mark that would gain entry to a reserved place was 32 per cent.

At Bhopal Polytechnic a general student needed 65 per cent to get a place. A reserved category candidate needed only 14 or 15 per cent. It is reported

in the Indian newspapers that the waiting list for the polytechnic had reserved category candidates on it with examination marks in single figures.

Students in the unreserved category are leading the agitation against the changes both in Madhya Pradesh and in Gujarat, where the Chief Minister, Mr Madhav Sinha Solanki, is proposing similar action, having waited more than a year since the report of a commission recommending the changes was presented.

The students, however, plainly have the backing of many of the people of both states, as is witnessed by the ease with which they were able to shut the states down when they called for a strike. After clubbing 200 students three days ago when they tried to block the states railways, the Madhya Pradesh Government declared yesterday an official holiday, so that state offices would remain closed with or without a student ban.

The students are making some telling points. They ask Mr Arjun Singh why, for example, 78 per cent of the seats in the state legislature are not reserved for backward and other classes. They ask him how he would like to be treated by a doctor who passed out of medical school with only a 30 per cent mark.

The Chief Minister has agreed to meet student leaders on March 3, the day after the polls close in the local elections. Meanwhile, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has issued an order staying the imposition of the new 25 per cent reservation rule.

## Princess Anne's tour gives boost to charity

From Our Correspondent  
Delhi

Princess Anne flew out of Delhi yesterday having completed what officials called an extremely worthwhile tour of India.

Her visit has already encouraged the donation of money to the Save the Children Fund, a spokesman said. At least £50,000 has been promised from one source.

The Princess and all her entourage were sporting T-shirts bearing the slogan "The A-Team" as they boarded the British Airways scheduled flight back to London.

The Princess was completing the tour she began in October last year, which was cut short by Mrs Gandhi's assassination. Though successful, it was not without incident. There were a number of occasions which gave rise to security fears, as when the Princess first arrived in Calcutta to stay in a five-star hotel only to have the electricity supply cut by one of the city's notorious power failures.

When she met Mrs Sonia Gandhi, the wife of the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in Delhi, her two Special Branch bodyguards were not allowed to accompany her into the residence at 1 Sadafjung Road, where Mrs Indira Gandhi had been killed. They were kept in the street during the meeting, which took an hour and 20 minutes instead of the scheduled 45 minutes.



Warm welcome: Princess Anne is given a scarf at the Chandragiri Tibetan refugee centre in Orissa which she visited during her tour of India which ended yesterday.

In Calcutta there had been an uneasy, rather noisy dispute between one of her detectives and a pair of Indian photographers he had grabbed literally by their collars in order to persuade them not to poke their cameras through a church window at the Princess, who was attending an Ash Wednesday service. The Princess was said to

have enjoyed particularly her visits to the training projects for the Child in Need Institute in Calcutta, and to the Arthik Samata Mandal complex in Vijayawada.

## Fears grow for 8,000 missing Iraq Kurds

By Edward Mortimer

Eight thousand Kurdish prisoners have been missing in Iraq since 1983, and there are growing fears that they may have been massacred by the Baathist regime. They are members of the Barzani clan, to which Mullah Mustafa Barzani, the Kurdish nationalist leader, who died in 1979, belonged.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) now led by two sons of Mullah Mustafa, Mr Idris Barzani and Mr Masoud Barzani, is continuing the struggle for Kurdish autonomy in northern Iraq, with some support from Iran.

In July 1983 Iranian forces captured the border town of Haj Omran, in the Kurdish mountains. The Iraqi regime blamed this on the "treachery" of the Barzanis, rounded up some 8,000 men of the clan and took them to Baghdad where, according to KDP sources, they were paraded through the streets as "Iranian prisoners" before being taken on to the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf.

At the same time, 37 members of the Barzani family who had remained loyal to the regime, including Mullah Mustafa's eldest son, Mr Ubaidullah Barzani, who had consistently taken the government side against his father, were arrested and accused of co-operating with Masoud and Idres. "From now on they are going to hell," President Saddam Hussein reportedly said on Iraqi television.

None of the arrested Barzanis have been heard of since, despite strenuous efforts by the KDP to discover their fate. The party took French and West German civilians working for the Iraqi Government as hostages, and asked their governments to find out what had happened to the missing Barzanis.

The French Government, after making inquiries, replied that "a large number" of them had been killed. It was not clear whether this referred to all 8,000 or to the 37 close relatives, but the French said the Iraqis had told them the group "no longer existed".

The West German Government discovered that the prisoners had been taken to special housing in the desert, on the Jordanian and Saudi borders. But no one has been allowed into the areas.

It appears that they are not covered by the general amnesty for Iraqis "sought by the authorities" which was announced on February 13.

### Bonn MPs face life barred from chocolate

Bonn - West German MPs adjusted as best they could yesterday to an apparently historic ruling by Herr Philip Jenninger, the Speaker, that "it is not usual to eat in Parliament". The Speaker had caught Herr Hans Appel, the former Social Democratic Minister of Defence, accepting a piece of chocolate offered across the aisle by a female Christian Democratic political opponent. Observers pointed out later that Adenauer used to receive chocolate from a female Christian Democratic MP (not the same one).

### Aquino's widow blames 'monster' Marcos

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Marcos of the Philippines is a "monster" and the principal suspect in the murder of Opposition leader Benigno Aquino, his widow, Mrs Corason Aquino, said yesterday.

The "Marcos dictatorship" must be removed, Mrs Aquino said in a fiery speech to Manila businessmen. "It is only then that I can expect justice, not only for me but for the entire Filipino people."

She said it was not her main concern that Mr Marcos had announced that General Fabian

Ver, the armed forces chief, would be reinstated if acquitted of charges in connection with the killing of her husband.

The charge sheet was incomplete, she said. "Because my number one suspect in the assassination... is Mr Marcos himself."

It was not a "death wish" she had for the ailing Mr Marcos, but rather a burning desire that the divided Opposition unite "so that we can rid ourselves of this monster that has taken hold of our country since 1972".

### U-turn by Pretoria on black townships

From Michael Hornsby  
Johannesburg

The South African Government's recent reversal of policy on African urbanization, which it had sought to discourage, reflect growing concern about the social and economic implications of the country's rapid population growth.

In the past 10 days the Government has abandoned plans to uproot the inhabitants of three established African townships near Cape Town and resettle them elsewhere, and has also said it is prepared to consider developing the Crossroads squatter camp near by into a permanent residential area.

These concessions have been widely depicted as panic reaction to the serious rioting in Crossroads last week, in which 18 people were killed and more

than 200 injured by police counter-action. The riots were caused by the squatters' fears they were about to be forcibly moved.

There is evidence, however, that while these particular decisions may have been dictated by expediency the Government is engaged in a fundamental re-think of its approach to African urbanization.

The Department of Health and Welfare's Chief Director of Population Development, Dr Boet Schoeman, announced this week the Government's full support for an ambitious 100-year plan to curb population growth by encouraging the rapid urbanization of blacks.

Government demographers estimate that the country's water resources can support a maximum population of 80

million, and that the current population of about 32 million would surpass that level by the year 2020 at the present rate of growth, and reach 138 million by the year 2040.

The aim is to stabilize the population at about the 80 million mark by the year 2100. Dr Schoeman said the only really effective counter to a high total fertility rate (TFR), which is expressed in terms of children per woman, was to improve the standard of living, health and education of the fastest growing sectors of the population.

The aim of the plan was to bring TFR down to the replacement level of 2.1. Whites (15.4 per cent of the population) had already dropped below this level and were now at 2.08; Indians (2.8 per cent) were at 2.7; mixed-race Coloureds (9 per cent) at 3.4; and Africans (72.8 per cent) at 5.2.

Urban Africans, however, had a markedly lower TFR than those in rural areas. If rural Africans were removed from the calculation, the African TFR dropped to about the same level as that of the Coloureds. "It is clear that what we need to do is to urbanize blacks," Dr Schoeman said.

In an urban situation, he said, standards of living improved most rapidly, and that adequate education, health care, housing and employment were most likely to contribute to a falling fertility rate. Family planning was only part of the solution.

● **TOLL RISES!** The death toll in 10 days of scattered black rioting against apartheid climbed to 20 after a high-school student was run over and killed by a bus being stoned by an angry mob in Bloemfontein.

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## SPECTRUM

As our sewers collapse and waterways silt up, David Walker explains why 'infrastructure' is today's political buzz word

# When the concrete begins to crumble

## What is infrastructure?

**Water:** pipes, sewers, drains, reservoirs, treatment plants  
**Transport:** roads, railways, canals, bridges, airports, ports  
**Energy:** North Sea oil and gas installations, coal mines, power plants

"It is vital for the future of Britain that the nation should have in place a modern and efficient infrastructure before revenues from North Sea oil and gas start to decline towards the end of the century. Their financial support offers a never-to-be-repeated opportunity to build a sound foundation for future prosperity."

That's the Confederation of British Industry on infrastructure. It could be Ted Heath, David Owen or Peter Shore: any of the engineering institutions, the builders' federations, trade unions: the National Economic Development Council or the Policy Studies Institute. They all want more investment on infrastructure.

Whether the purpose is to create jobs, regenerate the economy or simply to prevent sewers collapsing underfoot, a loud cross-party lobby has made infrastructure the political buzz word of the mid-1980s.

But what is it? Is the Kielder reservoir in Northumberland infrastructure? (£120m to supply more water than the householders of Newcastle and the industries of Middlesbrough could use between now and doomsday, so much water that the Northumbrian Water Authority has had to try to sell it to such parched regions as Qatar and Cornwall.)

And what is the planned 1,200 megawatt pressurized water reactor at Sizewell in Suffolk - a project that often seems to have few friends outside the Central Electricity Generating Board - but major investment in infrastructure? Stansted Airport development: there is an infrastructure project which even wet Tories (especially those with constituencies in Essex) are not keen on. Or the projected road link between the A1 and the M1 in East London - a type of infrastructure you will hear few London Labour MPs endorsing.

Infrastructure is glorious in the abstract, but on the ground the big investment projects have a nasty habit of either turning into white elephants or dropping several hundred cubic metres of concrete on to somebody's beloved stretch of Old England.

In an influential report on infrastructure published a year ago by the Institution of Civil Engineers (not wholly disinterested in construction contracts, it must be said), the concept was defined as "the basic framework for the well-being and productive development of a modern industrial society."

The engineers included everything from the proverbial sewers through to council houses, sports centres, Centre Point and the buildings housing the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

A less generous, and more manageable definition of basic infrastructure includes:

• The bases of communications, that is roads, railway lines, cable television pipes and conduits for telephone wires.

• The utilities of civilized life, from water treatment plants to drains and refuse incinerators; from North Sea oil rigs to electricity pylons.

The condition of Britain's basic infrastructure is hotly disputed, but its extent is remarkable. In the United Kingdom there were - when the water authorities last tried to count them - 234,278 kilometres of public sewer. In England and Wales nearly 96 per cent of the population have lavatories connected to the sewers - a strikingly high figure compared with Continental Europe.

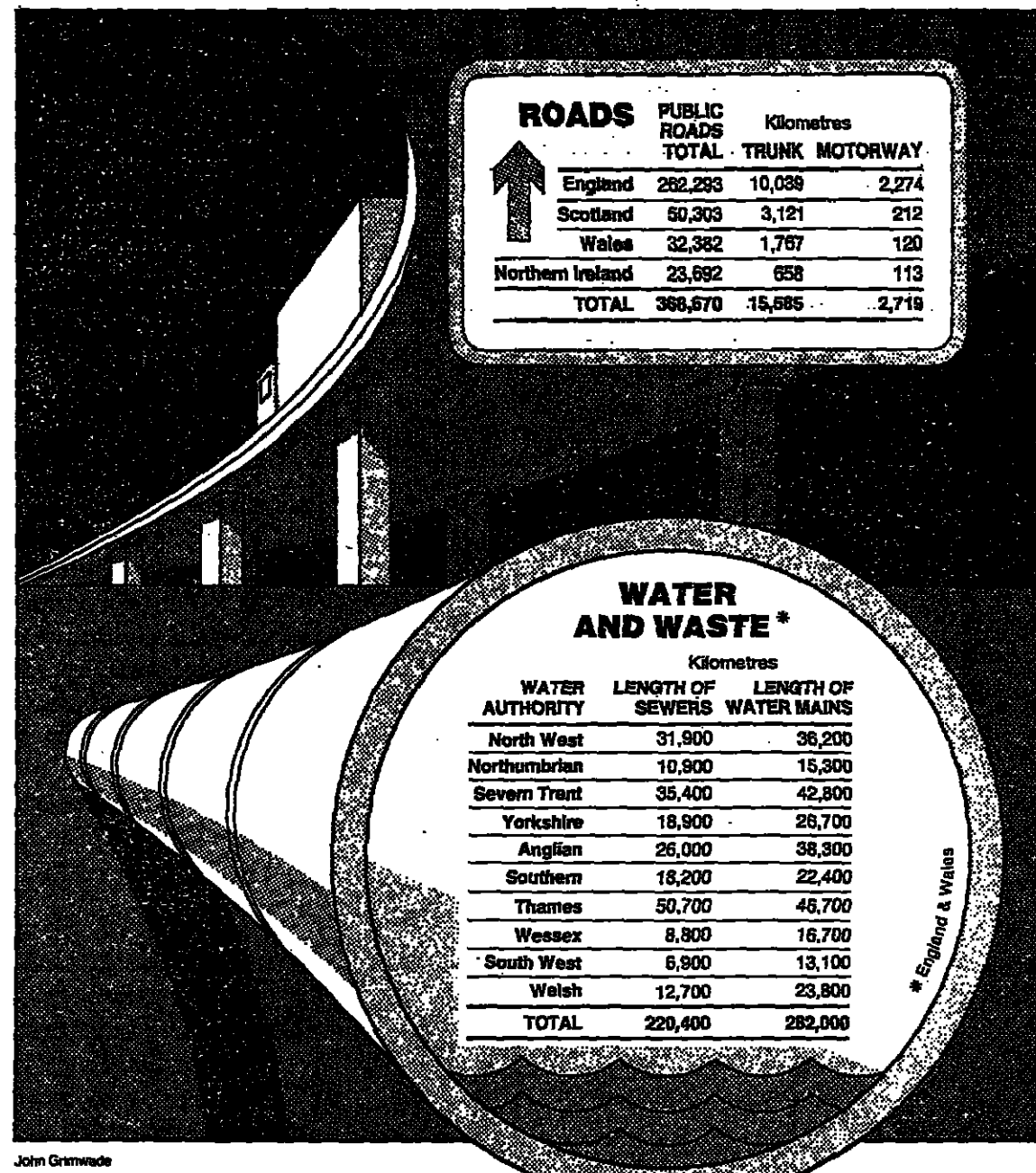
Water mains in the UK total around 320,000 kilometres, providing a public supply of the liquid to (in England and Wales) 99.2 per cent of the population.

The nation is gassed and electrified as well as watered. There are around 143,000 miles of gas mains in use in Great Britain. Across some 21,943 metal pylons and wooden poles, the Central Electricity Generating Board has strung 7.6 million route kilometres of high tension wires (and runs another 618,000 route kilometres underground). Electricity is supplied to users along a further 362,000 circuit kilometres of buried mains and 244,000 kilometres of overhead wires.

Some sense of the scale of the nation's transport infrastructure might be given by the calculation that if someone set off today in a car averaging a constant 45 mph, it would take them until midnight on September 26 to travel the length of the UK's public roads - 229,080 miles. In addition, there are still some 1,500 miles of canal and inland waterway and 11,000 route miles on the British Rail network.

Just taking underground infrastructure - water pipes and sewers, gas and electricity mains and telephone cables - a reputable estimate was made in 1978 that the replacement value of all these unseen assets would be around £50 billion, at least £35 billion today.

The protagonists of infrastructure



John Grimwade

are not concerned with the scale of existing services but their adequacy - not so much the 230,000 kilometres of British sewers but the 5,500 annual collapses which require water board staff to dig holes in the road.

How can the adequacy of investment in infrastructure be measured? During the 1970s what economists call gross domestic fixed capital formation (investment in physical assets) declined from 19 to 15 per cent of gross domestic product. In the Thatcher years, while total public spending has remained high, public investment has shrunk, partly because the Government has found it easier to end construction projects than terminate employees' contracts.

Even so in 1983-84, 13 public sector corporations involved in providing the basic infrastructure were investing £6.7 billion (and the bulk of that was paid for directly by current gas, water and electricity consumers rather than by borrowing that would be paid for by future consumers).

Was it enough? That can only be answered by looking at specifics as there is no optimum national level for investment. The authors of the study *Rebuilding the Infrastructure*, published last October by the Policy Studies Institute, said that the need to build roads and repair pipes could only be assessed locally on a project

by project basis. Suddenly making sums available for infrastructure investment would be a long time, for blueprints to be drawn up, crews to be collected and permissions to be given.

One specific that has seized the public imagination is sewers. Four years ago Manchester was being taken as the grim model of the country's future problems: traffic in the centre of Manchester was (and still is) being disrupted by collapses in its nineteenth-century sewerage system. For a time there was talk of Victorian nemesis: how the generation of the 1980s was failing to invest in the necessities of life in the way our Victorian forbears did. Astronomical sums were produced as the cost of replacing underground services. One antidote to all this is unfortunately not open to the general public and consists of the Thames Water Authority's celebrated tour of London's rainwater-cum-sewerage system inherited from the Victorian engineer, Bazalgette. Whenever journalists are taken on the tour, the official guide stops in one of the six-foot diameter tunnels under Ludgate Circus to point out the Victorian brickwork, which is still in splendid condition despite having received the effluent of Fleet Street for all those years.

The other antidote has come from the water industry itself, in the shape

of a research and development programme dealing with the condition of sewers - some 95 per cent of which are not accessible to water authority staff. New techniques of remote-control observations and of in situ replacement of sewer walls have made the problem manageable.

In 1982 the National Water Council costed the sewer replacement programme at an extra £20 million a year rising to £100 million within five years. These are large sums and there is valid debate whether they ought to be found from borrowing or from increased water charges. But they do not add up to a quantum leap in water spending, nor - this is an important point for those who urge more investment to create work - do they necessarily create jobs. The new sewer technology of jetties, suction units and close-circuit television make repair work less labour intensive.

Another specific set of infrastructure projects advocated by many involve motorway and trunk road building. In its recent report, *The Fabric of the Nation*, the CBI said: "British industry is at a disadvantage because of the inadequacies of the existing road system. There are still serious bottlenecks where motorways and dual carriageways end and become older, often winding two-way roads."

Certainly the British motorway map remains an odd figure of gaps

(between the M74 and the M6) and pockets of excess, as in Liverpool and Glasgow. But the most recent government White Paper claimed that on present plans (for which money is forthcoming) contracts for most of the remaining inter-urban motorways and the trunk road programme will have been let by the end of the decade.

And at that point an unpleasant fact becomes apparent: one person's high speed road link equals the demolition of another's house and the desecration of another's favourite beauty spot. Infrastructure can be controversial.

Ask the inhabitants of Naseby, in Northamptonshire, who stand in the path of the proposed A604/A1-M1 link. How many Tory suburbanites have looked at the CBI's list of projects, including a new south radial route linking the A3 and A20 across south London? Imagine the outcry over the likely route of a proposed Thame-Stevenage road or new Sheffield-Manchester route.

Infrastructure is a planner's concept. It appeals to those who think you can sit in an office in London and draw up a prescription for a huge variety of local circumstances and conditions.

But there is a danger in a national formula answering some macro-economic model. Take the nation's bridges - an estimated 155,000 in the United Kingdom and an essential part of communications and transport. A national plan might, for example, decree the replacement or refurbishment of the bridges for road, rail and water we have inherited, not only from the Victorians but from the Stuarts and the Romans too. There are 69,000 bridges made of brick and masonry built before 1922; but there is no general problem with these bridges. Some are crumbling, it is true, but that has to do with particular loads and stresses, not necessarily age. Some of the worst casualties are among the 52,000 bridges of reinforced concrete built after 1922. There can be no general assessment of how much investment in infrastructure is needed. On the ground there are only specific projects: leaky water mains here, new cable there, a debate about the amount of agricultural land needed for the desired A47 improvement.

And even when these debates are settled, there remains the question of who pays. How far is Manchester's infrastructure, which is crumbling, a just burden on all taxpayers? When should the bills for the cabling of Milton Keynes be presented?

The infrastructure, says the CBI, "was largely laid down by past generations for the needs of their times. We must ensure it is kept up-to-date and, where necessary, extended and improved to meet the needs of our times."

But the "we" is a congeries of public bodies and private companies, each with its own balance to make between charges and borrowing, present consumption and investment geared to the future. To impose some national scheme ordering new high levels of spending could be disastrous.

## A word in weasel's clothing

Infrastructure is a weasel word, as well as a term of economic and defence jargon. A weasel word is one that sounds impressive, but lacks the meaning out of the sentence in which it appears. The origin of the metaphor can be found in *As You Like It*, where the melancholy Jacques urges Lord Amiens to carry on singing. "I can suck melancholy out of a song, as a weasel sucks eggs". Old Winston Churchill, majestic purist, attacked the obfuscatory, weasel nature of the term in the House of Commons in 1950: "In this Debate we have had the usual jargon about 'the infrastructure' of a supra-national authority." In its weasel aspects today, infrastructure is often anti-monetarist code calling for more government spending. A few years ago the vogue phrase was public investment.

Nevertheless, when used not unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly, infrastructure is a perfectly useful term of jargon. As you can see it is derived from two Latin roots, infra and structure: what is underneath the structure. It was brought into language by the French railway system shortly before 1875, to denote fixed installations.

The useful shorthand word was adopted into English, and became widely fashionable in 1952, when it was taken up and extended by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Nato used it to distinguish "common infrastructure" fixed installations such as airfields, telecommunications, pipelines, and ports, which might be used by the forces of any ally, and were therefore financed by a central Nato fund, from "national infrastructure" barracks, training establishments, and so on, reserved for the use of the nation in whose territory they stood. Example from the *European Review* in 1951: "This new term 'infrastructure' denotes fixed military facilities."

Since then infrastructure has acquired a still more general meaning and become a vogue word. It is used to refer to the basic capital investment of a country or enterprise, with particular reference to developing countries. Example: "Assistance will be focused on Vihiga Division and will upgrade the infrastructure of roads and other social services." It has become so fashionable that it is often used as a vacuous slogan, such as "Fry me!" or "Fritter-my-wig!" where a shorter word like "base", "foundation", "root", or "substructure" would serve just as well. Example: "A very complex infrastructure of scores of vernacular languages."

Philip Howard

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## For animal liberation read terrorism



Imitation is surely the sincerest form of flattery, although not always the most commendable. Witness recent actions taken by animal rights activists which emulate the style and method of terrorist violence as practised by many revolutionary groups. Even the name of the Animal Liberation Front, the leading militant animal rights organization in Britain, invites overtones of political rationale frequently associated with subversive movements. We now know that something rather more sinister lies behind the supposed genuine interest in animal welfare: to these fanatics human beings are potentially expendable in the interests of their cause.

The Mars bars episode in November, 1984, shocked a nation that had known its fair share of politically-motivated violence within the year. That the threat proved to be a hoax did nothing to excuse or ameliorate the grave nature of the act or its underlying disregard for human rights.

It was not the first instance of this type of attack on consumer goods during 1984. Earlier examples included warnings to supermarkets about fish produce and claims of bleach contamination in shampoo and baby-oil. Christmas brought a spate of poisoned turkey threats in England which climaxed a busy year for the Animal Liberation Front. In late November it boasted over five hundred attacks in the previous five months on targets ranging from butcher shops to fish farms and medical laboratories.

A Front bulletin warned that members "may arm", ostensibly to protect themselves from retaliation. Such a development would represent a new dimension in the operation of "issue groups" in Britain and prompt police to consider seriously the establishment of a special squad

to counter the possible depredations. Actions in support of animals' well-being are not a novel departure in Britain, where various organizations have lobbied for years to improve the protective legislation first introduced in 1876. What is different is the rise of violent militancy. Over eight years animal rights activists have proceeded from simple protest to actions which verge on being a danger to human life.

They have shown themselves prepared to trespass, break-and-enter, damage and destroy property, engage in physical assault and deliver all-too-real death threats.

It is critical to an understanding of the animal rights movement to realize that the extremists are now actually indulging in acts of terrorism: that is, the systematically-applied threat or use of illegal force to achieve a particular goal.

Animal rights activists have expressed intent of pressuring the government to enact particular legislation. Despite claims to be non-violent, the Animal Liberation Front has steadfastly adhered to a policy of coercive intimidation, of which law-breaking has been an unavoidable consequence.

Little doubt exists about the fear engendered through claims of poisoned candy or other consumer products, through abusive and threatening telephone calls, the posting of letter-bombs, the destruction of property or the menacing slogans painted on walls. Such actions are acts of political terrorism; no less so than similar activities of the IRA, the PLO and the Red Brigades.

To suggest that one narrowly based militant minority could upset the political stability of Great Britain would be both alarmist and irresponsible.

Nonetheless, political violence must always be a source of concern in a liberal democracy. The true dangers are less obvious. One is the possible duplication of terrorist actions by other "cause" groups.

Coupled to the "copy-cat" prospect is the possibility that extremist behaviour might create anger and frustrations which could incite Draconian reaction. While sweeping legislative sanctions are unlikely, more probable is the birth of vigilante groups formed in opposition to extremists if the government provides insufficient protection. A recent example in the USA has been individuals banding together to prevent militant assaults on abortion clinics.

While not wishing to cry "wolf" the public must realize what these actions represent: incipient terrorism. The dangers inherent within both the motivating philosophy and a possible

incautious reaction must be made clear.



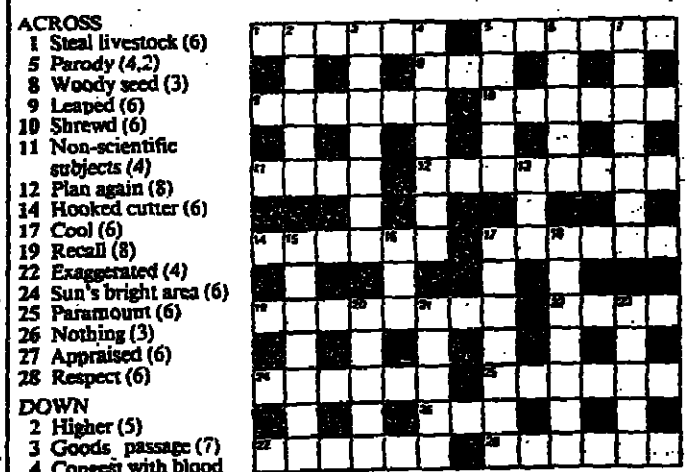
Slow and ponderous as the parliamentary process may be, it is the very basis of our democratic society and it represents centuries of striving for freedom and human rights.

Only through the legitimately expressed grievances may changes be effected, not through violent confrontation. The outrageous behaviour of the extremist fringe of the animal rights movement must be recognized for what it is: political terrorism. And it should be treated accordingly.

G. Davidson Smith

Senior Researcher at University of Aberdeen

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 583)



- ACROSS
- 1 Seal livestock (6)
  - 5 Parody (4,2)
  - 8 Woody seed (3)
  - 9 Leaped (6)
  - 10 Shredded (6)
  - 11 Non-scientific subjects (4)
  - 12 Plan again (8)
  - 14 Hooked cutter (6)
  - 17 Cool (6)
  - 19 Recall (8)
  - 22 Esquipped (4)
  - 24 Sun's bright area (6)
  - 25 Paramount (6)
  - 26 Nothing (3)
  - 27 Appraised (6)
  - 28 Respect (6)
- DOWN
- 2 Higher (5)
  - 3 Goods passage (7)
  - 4 Congest with blood (7)
  - 5 Solate (5)
  - 6 Brief letters (5)
  - 7 Showing tenderness (7)
  - 13 Make mistake (3)
  - 15 Burn corpse (7)
  - 16 Murmuring sound (3)
  - 17 Prescription (7)
  - 18 Most favourable (7)
  - 20 Break out (5)
  - 21 Dull (5)
  - 23 Optical maser (5)

SOLUTION TO No 582  
 ACROSS: 8 Gesticulation 9 Ova 10 Appetiser 11 Eject 13 Prairie  
 16 Stochastic 19 Ticks 22 Reckless 24 Tao 25 Nonconformist  
 DOWN: 1 Ignore 2 Estate 3 Didactic 4 Jump up 5 Salt 6 Rinser  
 7 Untrue 12 Jot 14 Auspicio 15 Ink 16 Sarong 17 Orient 18 Let off  
 20 Carkin 21 Sanitary 23 Hoop

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All you have to do is answer correctly the 12 questions published in The Times this week and return your completed entry form to the address below by Saturday, March 18. An entry form was published in The Times on Monday, and another will be published on Saturday, March 2. Each entry form must be accompanied by a donation of at least £1 for the BMW Golden Jubilee Appeal in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

What you have to do - On the entry form are spaces for 12 answers. The 12 questions will be published in The Times. Two questions will be published each day this week. When you have completed all the answers on your entry form, send it to BMW, WITH A DONATION OF AT LEAST £1. All such donations will be sent to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. You may complete as many entry forms as you wish.

**TODAY'S QUESTIONS**  
 QUESTION 9: How many major international passenger airlines serve London? 20-29? 30-39? 40-49? 50 plus?  
 QUESTION 10: Multiplying a certain measurement by 3.7854 converts it to another standard measurement. What are the two measurements?

**THE RULES**  
 1. All entries must be accompanied by donation of at least £1 to The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.  
 2. Answers to the questions must be written in BLOCK CAPITALS in the appropriate numbered boxes printed on the entry form.  
 3. All entries must be returned to BMW by Saturday, March 18.  
 4. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of receipt.  
 5. In the event of dispute, the correct answers will be those chosen by the judges.  
 6. Entries will only be accepted on entry forms obtained from an authorised BMW car dealer in Great Britain, or entry forms printed in The Times.  
 7. The prize is the opportunity to purchase a new BMW 520i of standard UK specification (excluding list price £10,825) for £350. No cash alternative is possible.  
 8. The organizers are BMW (GB) Limited.  
 9. No employee or close relative of BMW (GB) Limited, any franchised BMW dealers or Times Newspapers Ltd may enter this competition.  
 10. No correspondence will be entered into.  
 11. The decision of the judges on all matters is final.

SEND entry form(s) and donation(s) to 'Competition' BMW (GB) Limited, Elstfield Avenue, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 4TA. Further forms are available at any BMW car dealer.



# Acting out his own horror story

Haing Ngor lived through the years of genocide in Cambodia. Now, Douglas Thompson reports, he may get an Oscar for re-enacting his suffering.

Although many veteran names are in the running for Oscars on the self-congratulatory, glittery evening of March 25 the close competition has meant even professional oddsmakers have had difficulty in predicting the most wide-open awards race in years. It appears a year of no clear sweeps and surprise outsiders.

Except for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor, Sir Ralph Richardson is nominated posthumously for his dotty earl in *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle*. Adolph Caesar as the brutal sergeant in *A Soldier's Story*; Noriyuki "Pat" Morita as the martial arts master in *Karate Kid*; John Malkovich in his film debut as a blind boarder in *Places in the Heart*; Dr Haing Ngor, also making his movie debut in *The Killing Fields*. Dr Ngor has something on the others. An edge which makes him favourite to win. He lived the part he plays.

He ate carefully, savouring every bite of his poached salmon in the sumptuous surroundings of the Polo Lounge at the Beverly Hills Hotel. As he lifted cups of lemon tea with his right hand the little finger wasn't there to protrude. The Khmer Rouge hacked it off as a "warning" before he became acquainted with Hell. In his grey suit and mismatched tie and gold-rimmed glasses he tried to give a passable impersonation of an actor playing part of his trade by promoting his latest film in the most famous of all Hollywood's restaurant-bars.

Despite seven other Oscar nominations for *The Killing Fields* the Cambodian refugee has become the "star" of this harrowing account of the fall of Phnom Penh and its grisly aftermath, "the Asian Holocaust" in which three million perished. The moving told story of *New York Times* reporter Sydney Schanberg (Sam Waterston who is nominated as

Best Actor) and his Cambodian interpreter, Jack-of-all-deals and friend Dith Pran (Haing Ngor), during the Communist-backed revolution seems destined to take its place in film history. Unsettling and compelling, the edge-of-the-seat material has won worldwide acclaim. It details the wild, irrational bloodlust - "the running amuck" - of the Khmer Rouge as they take over Cambodia, the departure back to New York of Schanberg who wins a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting but suffers the overwhelming guilt of leaving his friend behind. Dith Pran endures four years of malnutrition, forced labour, forced re-education, beatings and the minute-by-minute chance of execution.

By guile and silence he survives and escapes finally to Thailand, a reunion with Schanberg and a job as a photographer on the *New York Times*.

Haing Ngor brought more to the role than a natural talent and nationality - he also survived the four years that

"This was worse than Hitler. More cruel, more savage."

Dith Pran did but only by suffering the insufferable. He told the story in uneven English with painful pauses as he recounted his terror and agonies. He holds a French medical degree and was working in a military hospital in Phnom Penh the day the Khmer Rouge and their tanks roared into the city determined to destroy all things traditional and Western.

"I was captured and condemned the first time because I called my girlfriend 'sweetheart'. The Communist changed the system. You had to call your wife or sweetheart 'Comrade Lady'. They catch me, cut my finger. That's the first lesson, next time don't do it."

"The Khmer Rouge did a lot of crazy things. Ten more years it would take to tell you all the crazy things. The second time they hang me like Jesus Christ, tie me to a cross and set fire to the bottoms of my feet. Three nights, four days. You doctor, tell me the truth. If you tell the truth, I release you."

"I maintained in my mind that if you tell the truth you will be 100 per cent dead but if you don't the same might happen but chances are 50-50. If I had told them I was a doctor they

would have killed me. They wanted rid of all intelligent people. I told them I was a taxi driver.

"You had to lie all the time. You had to be very careful. I'm thinking all the time, tomorrow I will die but I don't know where or when, but tomorrow I will die. They released me and showed me a bowl of rice and two pieces of fish. 'Tell me the truth, we'll give you food,' I said. 'No, you wear glasses (slashed). Oh, your nose is sharp (slashed), you CIA (slashed).'"

"I was captured and condemned the first time because I called my girlfriend 'sweetheart'. The Communist changed the system. You had to call your wife or sweetheart 'Comrade Lady'. They catch me, cut my finger. That's the first lesson, next time don't do it."

deep enough, not like my situation." He often drops into French to get home his feelings and whispers: "This was more than Hitler. More miserable than Hitler. More cruel than Hitler, more savage than Hitler. They made us work the land, plough the ground with our hands for twenty hours a day. To eat! They gave us rice - a cup smaller than this (demonstrates) teacup. In 1976 I have snakes and lizards to eat. But in 1977 I plough daybreak to noon with one small snail to eat. I wouldn't even cook it."

He and his sweetheart, Chang Howy, like thousands of others, were pushed deeper and deeper into the tropical forests to escape the Khmer Rouge. They starved under a plastic canopy. In *The Killing Fields* Dith Pran is seen picking up a lizard to eat. "People wouldn't believe more but that was nothing. We had lizards, mice, scorpions, centipedes, snakes, grasshoppers - grasshoppers were the number one food I ate. I survive today because I ate scorpions and grasshoppers. During the Communist time we also had Man Soup. The kid killed the father because he needed the muscle to eat. The father was very sick and would have died in two hours anyway. So they made Man Soup."

"But you had to be careful. You could eat to live but the Khmer Rouge could kill you any time. 'Why you eat Man Soup?' (slashed)."

His sweetheart, whom he regarded as his wife, died in June 1978: "We were living together in the jungle. My father and mother, two sisters-in-law, two brothers, couple of nephews and nieces and my mother-in-law were all killed by Khmer Rouge. Not shot. They didn't waste bullets. Beaten by hoes."

"My sweetheart died by starvation. She got sick and

there was no medicine. If you were a doctor and had no medicine, if you be in that situation and she die how painful you are. How you feeling? How painful. She saved my life and I couldn't save hers. She gave up her clothing for a couple of mice for me to eat. So all the scenes in the movie of the Cambodian communities, the people, not deep enough, not as real as it was. You couldn't show that."

After she died I stayed in the jungle but kept silent, no complain, don't say anything. You can go around but don't let the Khmer Rouge know. A small kid, eight or ten years old, a crazy little kid could inform on you."

Surviving meant crawling for miles through paddy fields, searching for food and avoiding artillery fire from above and land mines below his feet. Also, as Dith Pran does in the film, there were moments of walking into the skeletal remains of the thousands who died in 'the killing fields'. He says that was in an eerie way the hardest part to take: "You didn't know if you were stepping on your mother or your father. You didn't know. But you could have been."

When he made his escape to Thailand there were thousands of other attempting the same thing: "A lot of people died by mines. I pray to God, the Buddha, all the time, to live to find food to put in my stomach. I got into Bangkok in June, 1979. There was a camp of refugees on the Cambodia-Thailand border. As a doctor I took care of around 6,000 people in the camp, 40 or 50 patients a day. I worked doing that for the U.S. Embassy for 18 months. Then I got to come to the United States. A long, long time."

Haing Ngor earns \$400 a week working at a refugee centre in Los Angeles. He cannot practice medicine as he has no US medical qualifications. Although fluent in nine languages he is taking night classes in English to change that this year.

For the Oscars he is living a movie-star life travelling by limousine around Hollywood. He accepted the role reluctantly after being spotted by David Puttnam's casting agent, Pat Golden, at a wedding party for Cambodian refugees. At 35 he looks at you with 100-year-old eyes. But, nevertheless, despite the horrors, he can laugh, especially at his 'film star' status. It is, he says, "better than eating scorpions".

"The Oscar. Well, I'm not a handsome movie star guy. Acting this was easy because of all the situations. I had lived through it. They were my feelings, my situations. It was my country. I spend four years in the Khmer Rouge School of Acting. If I get an Oscar, and Buddha wills, maybe it will help my country. Maybe that makes it important."

## Taking insult from injury

There is a belief, widely held in both medical and legal circles, that people injured in accidents remain "disabled" until their compensation is settled.

This notion of "accident neurosis" started in the early sixties when a neurologist suggested that some victims of accidents deceived the Courts and exaggerated their injuries in order to increase their compensation. This view has appealed to many lawyers who have treated claims with scepticism.

However, a detailed study of 35 people who were severely disabled following accidents, refutes this analysis of the neurosis. Drs Michael Tarsh

and Claire Royston examined and interviewed patients who were said to have accident neurosis - in as much as they complained of having severe physical problems even though there were no obvious physical reasons for their symptoms - between one and seven years after they received their compensation.

The researchers, writing in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, discovered that long after the legal wranglings were completed the vast majority of patients were still unfit and, for the most part, either unable to work or not able to take back on the physical and emotional responsibilities they had before.

The lack of improvement in the illness, for whatever reason, many years after the compensation argument is settled, is a powerful argument against the view that many of these people are deliberately simulating their disabilities for financial gain.

## Drinking to good health

One of the popular myths about taking a course of antibiotics is that you should not drink alcohol at the same time. Only one antibiotic, metronidazole, marketed as Flagyl - will make you ill if mixed with alcohol. You will come to no harm if you drink a little while taking any other sort.

Doctors who suggest you should abstain are either erring on the side of caution or exaggerating possible problems. If you are ill it is sensible to eat down your alcoholic consumption: alcohol will slow you down, perhaps reduce the absorption of the antibiotic, and delay your recovery.

If, however, you are prescribed antibiotics from the tetracycline group you will be advised not to take them with milk. The calcium in the milk will combine with the antibiotic, make the drug inactive and prevent it being absorbed effectively.

The most common side-effects from antibiotics involve the stomach. Stomach upsets can be of two kinds: nausea and diarrhoea. The nausea and sick feeling is usually an immediate reaction to the drug. Antibiotics are sealed in capsules for a sound reason: they would taste vile in the mouth and quite often your stomach reacts in a comparable way once the capsule has dissolved.

The reason diarrhoea develops is quite different. Let's assume you take an antibiotic for a throat infection. If it's a "broad spectrum" antibiotic it can attack a wide range of bacteria, knocking out those causing the infection but also killing off some of the bacteria in the lower bowel.

A number of different bacteria live in the bowel, all having a particular niche and co-existing quite happily. But as soon as one group is destroyed the balance tips, another crew takes over and you suffer the reaction and consequence - diarrhoea.

Surgeons at St Mark's have devised a repair operation which they say can help 60-70 per cent of those with the affliction.

Cosalgic) can be extremely dangerous if taken in overdose or with alcohol, it is a useful painkiller and would be missed if banned.

In its latest *Current Problems* letter to doctors, the committee says Distalgic should continue to be available but goes further and asks doctors to take care when prescribing the drug.

Drugs like Distalgic contain two components, dextropropoxyphene and paracetamol. Dextropropoxyphene is now the commonest cause of drug-induced death reported.

The decision echoes the Committee on Safety of Medicine's view that although Distalgic (and its equivalent

## Penalties of childbirth

By the time they reach pensionable age almost twice as many women as men are incontinent. Why should this be? At St Mark's Hospital for diseases of the rectum and colon in London doctors believe the explanation is childbirth. They have discovered that during childbirth - especially if the delivery is troublesome - the nerves supplying the anal sphincter and the pelvic floor can be

damaged leaving the muscles functionally impaired. Although this rarely results immediately in incontinence, a vicious circle of bowel problems and more damage may develop, leading to incontinence later. Dr Michael Swash, consultant neurologist, says that because the muscles of the pelvic floor are weakened, women may be forced to strain to defecate, further stretching and damaging the nerve supply.

Surgeons at St Mark's have devised a repair operation which they say can help 60-70 per cent of those with the affliction.

The controversial painkiller Distalgic has escaped Secretary of State Norman Fowler's blacklist of drugs no longer to be available on the NHS, although doctors will now be obliged to describe the drug by its generic constituents when writing a prescription.

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Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser



## THE TIMES DIARY

### Blinkered view

With the licence fee still undecided, the BBC is not going to rock the boat. Claudia Milne, joint producer of the banned 20/20 film on M15 phone tapping, tells me she made discreet and not unprompted approaches to a "very senior" current affairs executive and to a "senior member of management" at the BBC last Friday to offer them the film that Channel 4 cannot show. In both cases she left explicit messages with their secretaries saying why she was, why she was ringing, and leaving them a number on which to contact her. She has heard... nothing.

### All-purpose

After a recent deluge of correspondence from pressure groups, the chairman of the House of Commons Secretaries and Assistants' Council, Jeanne Griffin-Smith, has devised a draft reply for MPs: "Thank you for your recent letter about occupational pensions and the rumoured changes in VAT on the limited list of drugs available on the NHS for badger embryos in Ethiopia."

### Open and shut

Oxford undergraduates are learning to imitate the day trippers of their political elders. On Tuesday night members of the university's wet Tory Reform Group discovered a listening device planted on the window of a room at University College where they were holding a meeting. Paul Davidge, leading light of the right-wing Conservative faction, denies all knowledge, but the Conservative Association president, Nick Robinson, plans to report the incident to the Dean. It remains to be seen if the Dean will take as dim a view of the bug as the manner of its discovery. The matchbox-size device, complete with battery and aerial, was spotted when the budding politicians left the room, in time honoured fashion, through the window.

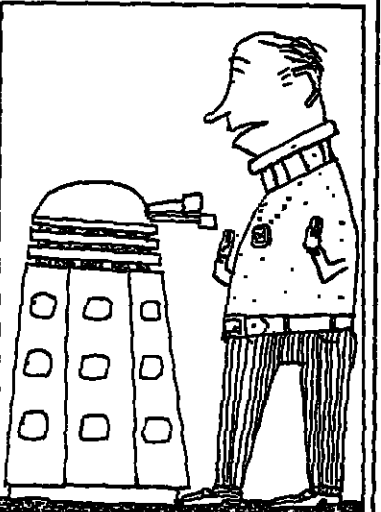
### No kidding

Under-sizes in Hackney are suffering from discrimination. The council has just launched a competition in which seven- to sixteen-year-olds are being asked to paint a view of what Hackney would be like "if ratecapping is enforced". The council fears under-sizes have not grasped the complexities of the issue and so they are restricted in subject to a plain old view of Hackney. Already on the bandwagon is Aims of Industry. It is not attacking this blatant ageism, but claims the whole thing "corrupts the mind of young children".

### Suction four

Improbable though it may be, both the General Belgrano and cows are covered by the Official Secrets Act. A chemist retired from the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service, wishing to supplement his pension, decided to write on matters bovine for his local paper in Wales. He called the article Infertility in Dairy and Suckler Cow Herds. In his covering letter to the editor, the former civil servant wrote: "I have cleared it with my former Head of Department as required under the Official Secrets Act." And quite right too.

BARRY FANTONI



"Dalek, you were wonderful"

### One's company

In 1981 Labour's national executive produced guidelines saying that where possible, there should be more than one candidate in constituency elections. Strange, therefore, that Betty Boothroyd MP - who was on that executive - will tonight be re-elected "unopposed" at West Bromwich West. Miss Boothroyd does have her opponents. This year, as in 1981, a certain John Edwards and others were nominated to stand against her, but on both occasions the constituency's general committee produced a shortlist of one. "A squalid manoeuvre", says Edwards, "a pioneering party". Counters Miss Boothroyd. "They have decided for themselves to have a shortlist of one."

### Tory cure

Rush while stocks last: from April the government is to ban GPs from prescribing such brand name drugs on the NHS as Barker's Liquid of Life Solution; Male Gland Double Strength Tablets; Snufflabe Vapour Rub; Morning Glory Tablets; Cabdrivers' Linctus; Alpine Tea; Scott's Husky Biscuits; and Dr Williams Pink. Also on the banned list is Strychnine Mixture BPC and Quiet Life Tablets; no prizes for guessing who would be best served by those little remedies.

PHS

When East and West enter into an arms control agreement the ability of each side to verify that the other is sticking to its undertakings is an important ingredient in creating mutual confidence. But as the Soviet Union and the United States prepare for negotiations in Geneva on March 12 they should consider that an unyielding demand for total verification on all occasions may prevent agreement which would otherwise be attainable.

I have always supported the need for verification, but I also suggest that negotiators should be ready to allow a variable percentage for trust in each other's intentions. This is not as naive as some may think, for if in the absence of agreement each side moves to develop increasingly complex and unverifiable weapons systems the present stumbling block to future arms control will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

There is another danger no less imminent. Next September an international conference will meet in Geneva to review the progress of the 1970 treaty which controls the spread of nuclear weapons. In 1980 non-nuclear weapons countries warned that they were dissatisfied with the failure of the nuclear powers to make the progress towards nuclear disarmament which they had implicitly promised.

Since then many states not possessing nuclear weapons have made it clear that their continued adherence to the treaty may depend on just that progress. If further qualitative improvements in nuclear weapons impede verifiable arms control the very danger of nuclear proliferation will spiral. Already it is estimated that between 10 and 15 states could have nuclear weapons capability by the year 2000.

Is there an option which could facilitate the prevention of both vertical nuclear escalation and horizontal nuclear proliferation? I suggest there is if East and West are ready to constrain improvements in nuclear weapons while simultaneously demonstrating their recognition of contractual obligations.

## Nuclear arms: put trust to the test

by James Callaghan

Since the partial test ban treaty was signed in 1963 the US, the Soviet Union and Britain have affirmed their commitment to securing a comprehensive test ban treaty. In 1975 and in 1980 at the first and second review conferences of the non-proliferation treaty the non-nuclear weapons states called for just such a ban. Considerable progress was made in the late 1970s, although by the time I left office the Pentagon had gone cool on the proposals while the Russians were making demands for a level of verification which I did not believe was necessary.

Subsequently the Americans also raised difficulties on verification; as a result the last five years have witnessed much rhetoric about the long-term goal of achieving a treaty, but little substance. In 1980 President Reagan suspended the Soviet-US-British negotiations and two years later announced their termination. Since then the Geneva conference on disarmament has investigated issues relating to technical means of verification but has been denied a mandate by the present US and British governments to conduct negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Most of the participants now agree that they have carried that limited mandate as far as it will go - the logical next step is for treaty negotiations to open between the Americans, the Russians and the British.

The reopening of arms control talks between Moscow and Washington now offers a new opportunity, for verification is no longer a justifiable impediment. In 1977-79 the trilateral negotiations had reached an advanced stage in constructing a framework for a sound, verifiable ban including on-site inspection, the construction of automatic national seismic detection stations on British, US and Soviet territory and the international exchange of seismic data.

Over the past four years techniques for monitoring seismic waves have been developed which can detect clandestine underground tests involving explosions of as little as one kiloton - 149 kilotons less than the figure specified in the threshold test ban treaty and the peaceful nuclear explosion treaty.

Last week the Soviet Union further relaxed its position on foreign verification when it reached agreement with the International Atomic Energy Authority providing for its inspection of Soviet nuclear power plants.

If the Soviet, US or British interest in a comprehensive test ban treaty is only bluff, now is the time to call it - before the non-nuclear weapons states challenge us next September and before East and West move to a higher and less verifiable level of armaments.

There should be an early resumption of talks to settle the remaining outstanding issues so that a treaty can be concluded. Such a treaty

would not stop all improvements in nuclear warheads where these do not require tests involving nuclear explosions, but it would severely constrain the development of new designs; it would reinforce the link between nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and would remove one argument from those who favour "Star Wars" on the grounds that technological advances in nuclear weapons will make future verifiable arms control unattainable.

In 1983 President Reagan asked every country which values a peaceful world to play its part in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons: in the same year the British government called on all nations seriously interested in a responsible approach to nuclear arms control to join the non-proliferation treaty.

They are right but they should have added that responsibility must be reciprocally shared by nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states alike. The world unfortunately may not be able to halt the further spread of nuclear weapons indefinitely but East and West, in their forthcoming talks at Geneva, can demonstrate their serious interest in arms control and it is in their interests that they should.

Nuclear escalation and nuclear proliferation are interdependent: should they remain unchecked both will make crisis management more difficult; should they further development encourage the deployment of strategic defences both may increase destabilization and endanger peace.

A comprehensive test ban treaty would be a small but essential and now, moreover, a realizable step towards increasing public confidence in the possibility of genuine multilateral disarmament. It is important that the principal negotiators should grasp an agreement if the world is to believe that the political will for such disarmament exists.

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The author, Labour MP for South Cardiff, was prime minister 1976-79.

David Watt

## Only an act, but let's applaud

Many people seem to have been surprised as well as heartened by the elaborate display of mutual admiration which President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher put on for us in Washington last week. But watching these rituals on television my own mind went back to an almost identical love-in at the White House 20-odd years ago which I actually attended. On that occasion the host was Lyndon Johnson and the guest of honour was Harold Wilson.

Most of the same ceremonies were enacted, and exactly the same speeches were made. The president produced a historically dubious evocation of the age-long friendship between the great English-speaking peoples, liberally interlarded with references to the special relationship, and ended with a resounding comparison between Wilson and Winston Churchill in whose hands the destiny of the world now lay, but an unshakable conviction that the Johnson presidency represented the highest summit ever scaled by statesmanlike endeavour.

"Ah", you may say, "but that was different. The cynical exchange of high-flown insincerities between two of the most hard-boiled professional politicians of the twentieth century is not to be compared with the real meeting of true minds so conspicuously enjoyed by Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher."

Well, maybe so, but it would be unwise to place too much reliance on the idea. It is the business of government propaganda under the present regime, as under Wilson's, to describe Anglo-American relations as Downing Street thinks they ought to be and not necessarily as they are. Behind last week's chorus of official acclaim I can still hear warning echoes of the Wilson spokesmen assuring me with vibrant sincerity of the "real, instinctive understanding" that existed between their master and the "other great pragmatist", Johnson. It emerged afterwards, of course, that while the two men understood, and even appreciated, each other's political guile, they didn't actually agree. Johnson despised Wilson, Wilson distrusted Johnson and the officials who were spouting the line knew this to be so.

In Mrs Thatcher's case we may perhaps presume that at the personal level she likes Mr Reagan, since everyone else does, but there is by no means an equal certainty that with his easy-going male chauvinist ways he really likes aggressive feminine personalities. Even admiration for her as a character must be balanced by his evident conviction that all the European governments, including hers, are in an economic mess of their own making. Though the two of them are broadly united by a belief in homespun free-enterprise, the practical divergences between her monetary orthodoxy and his crypto-Keynesianism are US and dis so happily, without raising false expectations on either side.

moreover... Miles Kington

## Psst, want to hear a secret?

Somebody very perceptive once wrote that there is at least one big difference between Americans and British: if there is a big leak in the US, everybody wants to know whether it's true, whereas with a British leak we just want to know who was responsible. The urge to cover up, and the anger against those who do not, are inbuilt in our culture, so much so that we dignify cover-ups with phrases like not letting the side down, not rocking the boat, not grasping your nettle.

The result of all this is that we tend to speak in two languages, one for public consumption and one for private communication, leading to all the mumbo-jumbo of official communiques and off-the-record briefings, the doubletalk of Lobby correspondents, the gap between what politicians say on the air and what they say in the drinks room afterwards. And it was in fact at the BBC that I came across one of the most curious examples of this that I have ever met.

Several years ago I was working in the radio archives at Broadcasting House. It was the day after the death of Charles Curran, the then Director-General, and I ventured to suggest that, from the tributes broadcast about him, he seemed to have been a very bland fellow. But a girl from another department, who had dropped in for some research, disagreed violently.

"I've heard him say some really vicious things about the BBC", she said, "attacking his colleagues violently and pointing out some really basic faults with the whole Corporation in no uncertain terms. Gosh, he really laid into them."

"No disrespect", I said, "but you don't seem quite senior enough to be privy to the DG's thoughts."

"I was only a technical assistant", she said. "It was at a recording session where Curran was taping his honest opinions on the BBC and everything."

"They should have broadcast that last night."

"Oh, it wasn't for broadcasting. It was for the BBC's own secret archives. Apparently they get all the

Thatcher and Reagan have been walking through a well-worn piece of theatre, just as Messrs Johnson and Wilson did. And the primary object of the act is not to impress the other principal lead but to influence the audience. All British prime ministers from 1940 onwards (with the notable exception of Mr Heath, who took a conscious decision not to go in for these histrionics) have gone to Washington with two broad purposes in mind - apart, that is, from any specific deals they may have wanted to conclude. One has been to restate to Congress and American public opinion Britain's claim to be America's senior ally; and the other, no less important, has been to cut a dash with the British electorate. Most post-war American presidents have been mildly embarrassed by this *empressment*, but it has not cost them much to indulge the British with their place in the sun while retaining their own freedom to conduct foreign policy in an entirely unsentimental fashion.

It was fashionable at one time - especially in the 1960s - to deplore this sentimentality and even to accept de Gaulle's highly self-serving suggestion that we were so hung up on the "special relationship" that we were bound to be bad Europeans. This line of attack, always rather puritanical and self-defeating, looks even more absurd now that we are so much weaker. We cannot afford to lose any opportunity or waste any means of exerting influence in Washington. If it helps to tell the Americans in 15 different ways that we love them and need them - which in general terms we do - then why not? Mrs Thatcher may seem to fastidious British tastes to have laid it on a bit thick, but her audience on Capitol Hill is not noted for fastidiousness. Her speech was in fact very well judged in that it said exactly what her audience wanted to hear without giving anything substantial away.

It is this last point, of course, that is the hinge of the argument. A climate of goodwill created by forced repetition of the important principles on which we agree will help the political management of disagreement and may even, at the margin, bend American decisions slightly in our favour. But if any British prime minister believes that the "special relationship" exists in the sense that Britain exert a veto over any single US act or alter the general direction of American policy, then he or she is deluded - and if, in pursuit of this mirage, inclined to overlook important British interests, dangerously so.

For this reason, if Lord Stockton or Lord Wilson ever really regarded the "special" American connection as more valuable than a satisfactory relationship with Europe, they were wrong - and Mrs Thatcher would be doubly so because the intervening years have only proved the point. She seems very well aware of the realities, and if the Falklands experience may have caused her momentarily to waver, the Grenada affair and her sharp lesson over the exchange rate will have set her on the right track once more. As for her unashamedly hammy performance, it achieved - like Wilson's - the limited psychological ends that are possible, given the disparity of power between ourselves and the US and did so, happily, without raising false expectations on either side.

### Paul Valley, recently in Ethiopia, identifies one root of the present famine - the government's doctrinaire shackles on agriculture and marketing

The government men were lying in wait for the peasant farmers in the market place of the small town of Areka. The harvest of soft, Ethiopia's staple grain, had not been plentiful in the southern province of Sidamo but at least that meant, the peasants thought, that they would get a good price for what little surplus they had. They were reckoning without the fixed-price marketing strategy of Colonel Mengistu's revolutionary government.

There was almost a riot in Areka that day. The officials from the Agricultural Marketing Corporation waited until most of the peasants had brought their tiff into the dusty market place and then made themselves known. They announced the official price they had decided on and told the farmers that the AMC would buy their entire stocks.

The price was ludicrously low. The peasants protested. Some even began to gather up their grain saying they would rather not sell at such a price. The AMC men then announced that no one would be allowed to withdraw his produce. The farmers began to shout and drag their grain away. The AMC men were justified. Then the government heavies moved in and the peasants knew they had no choice but to comply.

The incident was far from isolated and the AMC pricing system is not the only policy of the Ethiopian government which compounds the difficulties faced by a country where, according to independent estimates, 500,000 people have died in recent months and 8,000,000 more are at risk of dying from starvation.

It would be misleading to imply that all or even the bulk of responsibility for the Ethiopian famine could be laid at the door of inefficient and inappropriate socialist policies. Shortly before I left Ethiopia I flew over large tracts of the devastated provinces of Tigray and Wollo. For hours the picture below was unchanging: plains which formerly were described as the breadbasket of the north were covered in a rolling mist of what was once fertile top soil; eddies of spiralling dust rose in whirlwinds hundreds of feet into the air; stony river beds at the bottom of gorges a thousand feet deep showed not a sign of water or new vegetation; and the grazing of land at the top of the plateaus, which the dried out rivers dissected were as bald and brown as old felt.

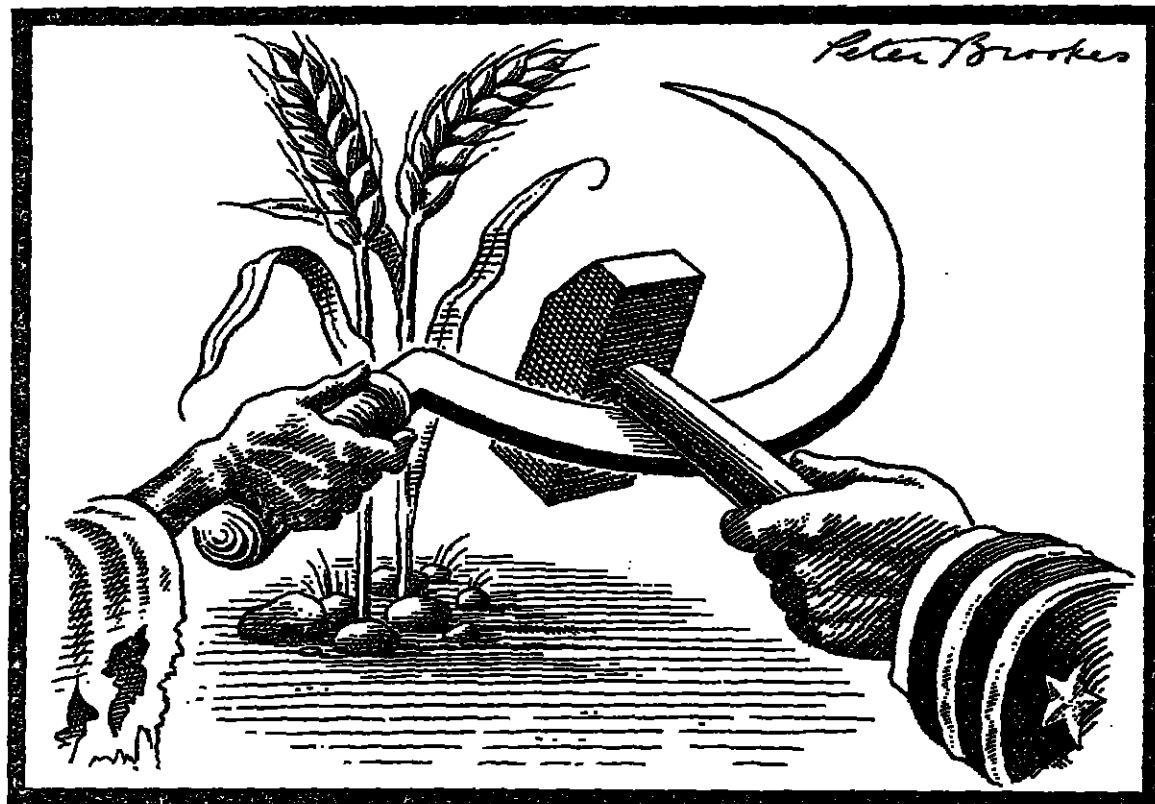
"There is no way that land like this can be made fertile in times of drought. If it does not rain then crops cannot be made to grow economically," an irrigation expert from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization told me. "Even if there was water at the bottom of those gorges it would cost a fortune to raise it: it would be cheaper just to buy crops for the people every year."

### Relief shipments forced to wait until arms are unloaded

It would be a mistake to aggrandize Mengistu's military regime with the suggestion that there was much any government could have done to prevent a natural catastrophe on such a scale. But it would be equally mistaken to pretend that the Dergue's sense of priorities in its management of the country's resources would find acceptance in many of the donor countries, which the colonel criticized this week for sending insufficient aid.

Perhaps the most offensive example, to western sensibilities, of these distorted priorities is the amount which the military regime spends on arms as its people starve. International observers estimate that 46 per cent of the country's gross national product goes on the armed forces.

Certainly the regime is brazen in its demonstration that military hardware is more important than food aid. In the first week I was in Ethiopia two Soviet ships, the



## How Mengistu hammers the peasants

Valentina Tereshkova and the Captain Modisvyanov, docked at the port of Assab. Their cargo included 45 tanks, tons of artillery, small arms, ammunition and bombs. Despite a previous government undertaking that three berths would be available at all times for relief shipments, two other vessels, the Baltic Skou carrying 16,000 tonnes of bagged Australian wheat, and the Knin, carrying 24,500 tonnes of Canadian grain, whose arrival was scheduled well in advance, were forced to wait at anchor for several days until the arms were unloaded.

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that political factors also override humanitarian considerations in the government's policy to resettle 1.5 million peasants from the drought affected regions of Tigray and Wollo in the north and Sidamo in the south.

It is not that resettlement is a bad thing in itself - these areas are overpopulated and agriculturally exhausted, and a carefully prepared voluntary migration makes sense to many of the relief organizations. But the way the military regime is going about its current programme lends credence to suggestions from the Tigre People's Liberation Front that the government is taking advantage of the famine to rob the rebellion of its natural supporters.

For example, it withholds grain from refugee camps for weeks on end but provides two cooked meals a day at resettlement transit camps half a mile away; when this fails, families are split up and the men ordered at gunpoint into lorries and planes, even though provision for their resettlement at their destination is far from adequate.

Certainly the scheme has obvious advantage to the socialist planners. Until now many peasants have shown a marked reluctance to join in the government's latest reorganization of agriculture which attempts to induce peasant associations to band together in producer co-operatives in a three-stage plan offering increasing financial incentives. In one district I visited, Damot Wayde, in Sidamo, only 240 of the area's 5,000 farmers had volunteered to participate at even the first stage.

But resettlement will uproot these independent-minded farmers, well established in their individual holdings in the northern highlands and the Sidamo plateau, and replant them in an area of farmers' co-operatives in the west where they will become more amenable to collective manipulation, much as the Russian peasants did under Stalin's collectivization of Soviet agriculture. That Stalin's stratagem produced few positive economic results but was a resounding success in terms of asserting control over politically recalcitrant peasants will cause few qualms to Colonel Mengistu's politburo.

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### Resettled farmers will be more amenable to manipulation

The Dergue's management of the agricultural economy is another sector of policy-making which, western agronomists working in Ethiopia maintain, has contributed to the lack of real growth in food production over the past 10 years. It is not just that 90 per cent of all investment goes into state farms which continue to produce a mere 4 per cent of the country's needs, with virtually no investment in peasant agriculture. They point to fundamental flaws in the post-revolutionary system.

There are between 200 and 400 farmers in each of the peasant associations, sometimes called, like their urban workers' counterparts, kebeles. The kebele committee has wide administrative and judicial powers to redistribute land. Plots are allocated according to the size of a farmer's family and take into account the fertility of the land; this can mean that an individual's holding is fragmented, with some good land and some bad. Fair, certainly, but inefficient.

More seriously, also in pursuit of fairness, this year's plots are not necessarily reallocated to the same people next year; thus creating a real disincentive to fertilizing the land, improving drainage, clearing boulders or building anti-erosion terraces.

Nor does the government's taxation system help. Nothing has been done systematically to reduce

the national land tax of around £40 a year, on average, which is a considerable percentage of the mean annual income of £150.

It is hardly surprising then that this year many peasants are defaulting. The result is that their draught oxen and cattle are rounded up into the kebele pound until they can come up with the money. If they cannot find it they are imprisoned. One agricultural aid worker in the south in a recent tour of 12 kebeles discovered that in three cases the entire kebele committee had been taken to jail because their members had been unable to pay taxes.

But it is in the price control policy of the Agricultural Marketing Corporation, which provoked the Areka market place drama, that lies the greatest disincentive to breaking the vicious circle of subsistence.

The system is designed to provide cheap food for the cities and, in particular, the capital, the government's political power base. The cities need some compensation for their 40 per cent unemployment. Cheap food is Mengistu's answer.

The AMC's basic fault is that it works from the top down rather than the bottom up. It begins by deciding how much food the country needs in a given year and then passes the instruction down through the system to the individual farmer, who will be told that the AMC requires, say, 50 kilos of sorghum, teff or coffee from his farm.

Nearer harvest time it tells him the price it will pay - sometimes not until he reaches the market place with his produce. The differential between the official price and what the farmer could get on the open market is often dramatic.

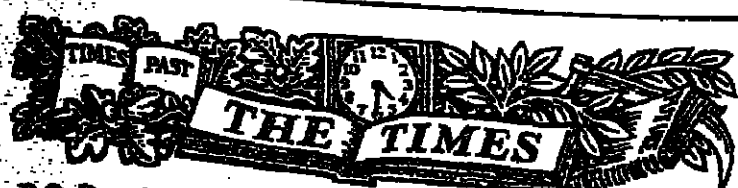
So demanding are the AMC's quotas that many farmers find that little or nothing remains for sale as a surplus on the open market. On some occasions the fixed price is actually lower than the cost of production. It is, as one agricultural economist put it, the most powerful disincentive imaginable to persuading farmers to do anything more than produce the minimum amount of grain they need to keep their families alive until the next harvest.

Thus, through wilful misdirection of resources, lack of imagination, rigidity of method, and the type of ideological obsession which puts policies before people, the cycle of subsistence in the Ethiopian highlands is maintained. It is a mode of existence in which there are no reserves and where otherwise tolerable climatic variations come to mean the difference between life and death.

When acts of God and natural disaster are set aside, that is the part of the Ethiopian tragedy for which Colonel Mengistu and his cohorts must take the blame.

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## BUT, MINISTER

To exercise the lingering spirit of Ponting the head of the home Civil Service has this week suffered an encyclical. Bearing the mantle of apostolic authority handed down to him by those mandarin giants Warren Fisher and Edward Bridges, Sir Robert Armstrong has set out to remind his younger colleagues of some eternal verities. And so they are. Government cannot - other large organizations neither - function without the clearest lines of responsibility; in Whitehall they lead ever upwards through the permanent secretariat to ministers of the Crown. Government cannot function without the utmost confidence of ministers in their officials. Above all is confidence, at once a lubricant and a cement of the business of government, and owed by a Civil Servant not only while he serves but ever after.

Here is more than a restatement of Whitehall's tribal myths. Here is an appeal to potential backsliders carried away by Mr Ponting's courtroom oratory. Exercise your conscience, Sir Robert seems to be telling his flock, but surely the intellectual and moral resources of your superior officials are not so shallow that in a moment of doubt you cannot find one to take your part and to argue the toss with ministers. Mr Ponting's actions, Sir Robert says implicitly, represent a slander of his fellow civil servants; the actions of, at best, a maverick. Without a doubt such iteration of the collegiate spirit was needed and Sir Robert's message deserves to be pasted on all Whitehall noticeboards to be read and digested by officials high and low. But it cannot be the last word.

One glancing reference to the Official Secrets Act cannot be enough in a week when a former Civil Servant in an ultra sensitive position in counter-intelligence apparently reveals all, and yet, signals are sent from the Government saying there is to be no prosecution. In such cases there surely needs to be some sanction heavier than mere dismissal (which cannot apply in the case of Ms Massiter). Section Two of the Official Secrets Act is old and tired and deserves a dishonourable discharge. When, therefore, is Sir Robert going to commission one of his bright young men to work out a new Civil Service act setting out certain gross abuses of confidence as offences? And with such an act will there be necessary complementary legislation providing for general revision of the categories of information deserving protection behind the criminal law?

Mrs Thatcher came to power six years ago and was returned to office in 1983 pledged to a radical alteration in the balance within Britain of State and Society, of the cost and extent of

government. What the impact of that ambition might be on the Civil Service we can, as yet, only dimly see - despite the efforts of Sir John Hoskyns and others to foment a debate about the nature of public service in a transforming Britain. But change is taking place in Whitehall. Painstakingly, often meeting the resistance of inert bureaucracy, there are officials redefining their work in terms of cost-effectiveness and managerial discipline. Only this week the first group of Whitehall's top managers was reaching the end of an innovative management course open equally to the private sector. To these civil servants, imbued with a managerial ethos, Sir Robert has little or nothing to say. On the "cultural revolution" needed to bounce Whitehall into the real world of the 1980s there is not a word.

Yet for the Civil Service of the 1980s some of the eternal verities are palpably inadequate. Mrs Thatcher's government has been beset - like governments before, only more acutely - with problems of presentation. To present - to sell - can require skills of imaginative advocacy, skills in short supply in the traditional upbringing of Whitehall's officialdom. Whitehall lore says that Civil Servants can only give a minister, a government, 95 per cent effort; the other five per cent has to be kept back to guarantee an elastic response to a government of differing political composition. But this formula is often unsatisfactory. It reduces the confidence of ministers who then reach out for overt political support. Should Whitehall evolve in the direction of committed cabinets insulating ministers from the crown servants executing policy? The debate is lively - but does not appear yet to have echoed round Sir Robert's Cabinet Office fastness.

To Sir Robert, as for Sir Thomas Dugdale - the last minister to resign, 30 years ago, because of a failing by his Civil Servants - officials have no constitutional responsibility or role outside their minister. It is a neat doctrine, but is it a doctrine compatible with value for money in the public services; can it work when the Financial Management Initiative is working towards making Civil Servants responsible managers, given the discretion to and enjoined to operate social security offices, prisons and dockyards in the most efficient way possible? As a temporary statement of belief, a stopgap to rally Whitehall's faint-hearted after the excitement of the Ponting episode, Sir Robert's crack of the whip is welcome. But the future of effective public service depends on the production, as soon as possible, of a new code of conduct for officials capable of administering Britain in this era of social and economic change.

## OFF THE FENCE

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's "state of the nation" address to the Bundestag on Wednesday displayed a vigour and a clarity which have not always been apparent in his government. He said a number of things which have long needed saying, and he said them well. For a start, he stated plainly that the people of West Germany have good reason to celebrate as well as to mourn on the fortieth anniversary of VE day in May. Their greatest regret must be that their compatriots in the East had a very different kind of "liberation" and are still living under a totalitarian dictatorship rather than a liberal democracy. He rightly reiterated that the German question is open, and that relations between West and East Germany cannot be like those between any other states.

West Germany's policy towards the East is "not about frontiers... not about sovereignty in the sense of the classical nation state", he said. It is about self-determination, human rights and popular sovereignty. And having established this admirable principle, he went on to address a question which has caused much damaging controversy: that of the Eastern frontier. The Federal Republic of Germany, he declared, has no territorial claim on Poland, nor will have in the future. The former German territories which are now part of Poland have become "Heimat" to a second generation of Poles. West Germany will "never put this in question".

Well said. But why on earth does this need to be emphasized more than a decade after the Federal Republic recognized the inviolability of Poland's frontiers in solemn treaty? Why has

the Chancellor allowed leading members of his own party and Government publicly to reopen the frontier question, thus reducing the country's Ostpolitik to partial disarray, and making a gift to Soviet propaganda? Why has he countenanced the extraordinary antics of the organization of Germans who formerly lived in Silesia - with their truly renaissance motto "Silesia remains ours" (though the motto has now been changed) - and an article in their government-subsidized news-sheet describing how the Bundeswehr might once again invade Poland?

The answers to these questions tell us more about the Chancellor's personal style of leadership than about West Germany's actual foreign policy. Dr Kohl seems to have a habit of allowing his ministers to make different and even contradictory statements, and then blithely asserting that they are all right. Moreover, like the provincial politician he originally was, he has sometimes paid more attention to sectarian loyalties - particularly those, like the Silesians, influential inside his own party - than to the national interest, more broadly conceived. It has long been apparent that the revived controversy about the frontiers was damaging the Federal Republic's standing abroad. But to make an unambiguous renunciation would be to invite criticism from inside his own party, not to mention his explosive Bavarian coalition partner, Franz Josef Strauss; and perhaps to risk losing votes. So, for a long time, the Chancellor prevaricated. Now at last he goes off the fence. The quicker he does so in future, the other issues of international importance, the more respect he will earn abroad.

## Speaker's role above it all

From Mr Peter James

Sir, In your leading article yesterday (February 26) about the publication of Lord Tony's memoirs you rebuke the Speaker for revealing the Speaker's role in private, to influence his decisions in the Chair, and you justify your view by appealing to something called mystique. Of far greater constitutional importance is the independence of the Speaker, and Lord Tony's revelations of the contempt shown by Mr Foot, Mr Callaghan and others for that independence serve above all else to make a reputation of such bullying less likely.

That the urge to oppress lives on is indicated by your report today (February 27). Mr Foot is quoted as stating: "I suppose George might be covered by the Official Secrets Act. There is a better case against him than Ponting." I cannot imagine how the Speaker can be considered to be subject to that Act, but for Mr Foot, self-proclaimed champion of the House of Commons, to contemplate circumvention by the Crown of the Speaker's independence (an independence which is nothing less than an expression of the Speaker's role as servant of the House) offers the most forceful demonstration of why Lord Tony's revelations are right and you, Sir, are wrong.

The principle to remember is enshrined in Speaker Lenthall's famous reply to King Charles I: "May it please Your Majesty, I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place, but as the House is pleased to direct me, whose servant I am here."

Yours faithfully,

PETER JAMES,

18 Girdler's Road, W14,

February 27.







## THE ARTS

Television  
Sitting  
target

The Howard brothers, Gordon and Billy, 73 and 65 respectively, think Rose Cottage and its surrounding five acres "beautiful". They want to end their lives there in the family home. Barnsley Council thinks the land neglected, overgrown and unsightly, not a contributor to local amenities. Legally, it owns the lot under a Compulsory Purchase Order. The council wants to provide 78 homes for old people. At a public inquiry - "a shabby do", Billy Howard recalled - it obtained the order, subsequently confirmed by the Secretary of State.

The brothers sit tight with no electricity but with geese, 30 cats and an assortment of dogs. The cats and dogs, they said, were good at raving. It appeared from *Whose House is it Anyway?* on BBC2's Forty Minutes last night, that though there is plenty of scope for their prowess, their sovereignty is not undisputed; half-burnt rat carcasses lay in piles. Neighbours complained of the smell and expressed their preference for old people's homes. The brothers were inhuman and adamant. Gordon hinted darkly of having a gun and being prepared to use it.

It was not in evidence when the council arrived to drill for soil samples. The brothers refused access and two police officers appeared and most diplomatically persuaded them to have a fence torn down to permit machinery through. They would stay, they said, to see it re-erected.

The brothers' case is before the European Court of Human Rights, which has been deliberating, inconclusively so far, over whether it has any jurisdiction. The council lacks time. A delay could lose the government grant. The council officers were patient before abuse but, of course, it was not their homes which were threatened. The brothers' solicitor, Mr Ian Wood, said that it was an appalling use of the law, a section of which could be used against anyone owning land.

The brothers have been offered several homes, the last, a three-bedroom house, within 50 yards of their present house. It had only a backyard. One dog and one cat would be permitted, which seemed constraining. The Howards would not view it anyway.

The council will not negotiate a price for the land until their value is allowed in. It is expected to be around £50,000. Neither brother mentioned money, only the principle. This month the bailiffs will arrive. It seems a case for Solomon but would he, one wondered, even if available, want to go to Barnsley?

Dennis Hackett

Cinema: Philip Strick reviews new releases and John Preston (bottom) meets Mike Newell, director of *Dance with a Stranger*

## A triumph of seedy nostalgia

Dance with a Stranger (15)

Plaza; Screen-on-the-Hill

Country (PG)

Odeon Haymarket

City Heat (15)

Warner West End; Classic Oxford Street

The fate of Ruth Ellis can be said to punctuate British social history like the closing of a chapter. Sentenced for shooting her former lover, she became on July 13, 1955, the last woman to be hanged in this country. The new era just beginning - of Suez and rock 'n' roll, and the legal recognition of diminished responsibility - seems hardly likely to have interested her. To judge from *Dance with a Stranger*, Mike Newell's film of her final two years, the only important matter on Ruth Ellis's mind was the man she was going to kill.

None of the wider implications of her story, in fact, is pursued on screen. The film argues no feminist cause, pleads no abolitionist message. Its main objective seems to be, nothing more than the immaculate reconstruction of an early Fifties setting: Pathe newsreels at the pictures, the Ted Heath Band at the dance-halls, the pogo-stick craze, the stuffy television interviews, the London fogs of unique density. As designed by Andrew Mollo, it is a triumph of seedy nostalgia - there is not a fashion or furnishing out of place.

Ruth herself, glossy hostess of the tawdry Little Club, has exactly the tight bleached-blond Monroe curls and fastidious Barbara Stanwyck make-up of a former vice-girl who is out to improve but by no means there yet, despite the erratic effect of recent elocution lessons. She is beautifully played by Miranda Richardson, hard-polished, soft-centred, wryly independent, an unmarried mother-of-two with nothing left to learn about men. The mystery, to her as well as to us, is why she should have wasted herself on the treacherous, shiftless youth who moodily destroys her career, her security and her life.

His wealthy family background offers a tenuous clue, but the mystery never does get properly solved, just as Ruth's access to a gun is left vague. The real Ruth's habitual choice of wrong men, as if she perpetually hunted for punishment, receives no emphasis in the film, which highlights instead her respectful and generous admirers. Scripted by Shelagh Delaney, her drift into disaster has a kind of weary fatalism, the more so for our awareness of the inevitable outcome.

The hanging issue is of no concern to Ruth: driven beyond rational behaviour, she takes revenge simply to get some peace. It could all have happened anywhere, at any time, and still does happen. Edgely photographed from all over the place, *Dance with a Stranger* holds the attention for its milieu and its performances: Rupert Everett as the cad, Ian Holm and Stratford Johns as Ruth's supporters, and Matthew Carroll as the luckless son are all perfect. But its sad, closed world of folly has nothing new to tell us.

On the Iowa farm where her family has lived for a hundred years, Jessica Lange is



Miranda Richardson, hard-polished but soft-centred, with Rupert Everett as the perfect cad in *Dance with a Stranger*

also losing control - of her husband, who has to be killed with a stake when he gets violent and of the farm itself as foreclosure threatens. Again, there is a sense of familiarity: as in last week's *Places in the Heart*, we watch a plucky farmer's wife with her kids battling the elements (here comes the typhoon once more), negotiating with bankers, and becoming a fine symbol of courage and resilience. The difference, however, is that this is not *Grapes of Wrath* time, viewed from the safety of an affectionate distance. It is today, and represents the current crisis of farmers throughout the Midwest.

Directed by Richard Pearce, whose prize-winning *Heartland* was similarly about wrestling emotional stability from the wilderness, *Country* was co-produced by Miss Lange. She was determined, she says, to draw attention to "a depression as bad as, if not worse than, the 1930s; people are being run off the land they've tended all their lives but they seem to have been forgotten by the rest of the nation". Whether the latest developments are as unavoidable as is claimed by Washington, bankers and landowners seem to have been mastering the miseries of innocent ranchers since the earliest days of the West. In *Country*, shaking their heads over the balance sheets, scrambling notes to themselves like "Work towards voluntary liquidation", and turning up with a truck the size of a house to collect some defaulting sheep, they are worse than any gunslinger and rather more difficult to move down.

With its repeated kitchen panoramas of food in preparation and plates piled high (the camera pulls back at one point across a remarkable landscape of sizzling pans), the film seems perversely low on hardship. The wide open spaces look bleak enough, but the invitation to sympathy is

weakened by the introduction of a feeble-minded neighbour, and by the hate that the husband (played by Sam Shepard) is not much of a farmer anyway. Jessica Lange, gorgeous as ever, has the slightly stunned look of someone who does not believe this can be happening to her, and I am afraid the mood is catching. But it is an honourable and absorbing enough exercise, and Lange and Shepard make a right handsome couple.

The same could be said, I suppose, about Clint Eastwood and Burt Reynolds: those two masters of machismo, teamed together for the first time in Richard Benjamin's *City Heat*. Adopting the Newman-Redford formula of mixing wisecracks with action against an elaborately authentic background, they succeed all too well in providing an almost offensively clownish waste of time and talent. Cop and private detective respectively, among the Kansas City speakies of 1933, they pause in their rivalry long enough to sort out a gang war and to rescue Madeline Kahn from an ill-considered kidnapping.

Their relationship has elements of the Howard Hawks classic *A Girl in Every Port*, with one member of the unit constantly getting into a scrap so that the other has to come to his assistance. And in an absent-minded way they do share the same girl, the admirable Jane Alexander. But when Eastwood calmly walks down the middle of the street with a shotgun to blow away a flock of incompetent mobsters it is clear that we are watching the weakest of parodies, without subtlety, complexity or indeed much interest. It is superb to look at, a quite lovingly restored piece of period atmosphere, and there is a wonderful performance by Rip Torn as a gangland boss, but the effect is rather like combining the Marx Brothers with *Gone with the Wind*.

'The place and the times became absolutely crucial - they became a character. The model I had in mind for myself was Chabrol...'

It is not unusual for television directors to have difficulty finding their feet when making the big leap on to the cinema screen. Some have far more trouble acclimatising to the new medium than they had ever anticipated. Others take on blatantly unpromising material simply in order to get started. Certainly one would have been hard pressed to predict a glittering career for Mike Newell on the evidence of his first two films, *The Man in the Iron Mask* and *The Awakening*. But Newell has clearly put these early efforts a long way behind him as his fourth film, *Dance with a Stranger*, which opens in London today, amply proves. Based on the case of Ruth Ellis, it was made for the comparatively paltry sum of £1.5m.

Ellis, it seems, had transcended in more ways than one. In her obsessive desire to better herself she had paid scant regard to convention, she had unashamedly submitted to the dictates of passion and her story, when it became known, provided an alarming glimpse of just what might be going on behind the closed net curtains of the nation. It was these aspects of the case that particularly fascinated Newell.

"I was tantalized by it", he says. "And clearly I wasn't the only one. Everyone seemed to remember it so vividly. I mean, the signalman who was in the signal box next to Holloway Prison said the birds stopped singing when she died. Of course they didn't, but somehow Ruth Ellis seemed to get right to the back of the national cortex. There was obviously a kind of unspoken national co-operation in agreeing that this woman should hang. The law was not framed in such a way that she could be acquitted, but the jury was very loath to hang people and would find the most extraordinary non-legal excuses to let them off. However, in this case they didn't."

"You began to wonder just what were the taboos she had offended against. And of course as soon as you started on that line of investigation then the place and the times became absolutely crucial - they became a character. The model I had for myself was Chabrol in the sense that his films depend on a very



Mike Newell: "In this business it doesn't do to presume anything"

clear understanding of where they take place. Shelagh Delaney and I absolutely submerged ourselves in the Fifties. We spent weeks researching what young ladies would have in their wardrobes, what people spent their money on, what was in the Top Twenty, until we had got the feel for the period fixed firmly in our minds and a strong idea of what life must have been like for Ruth Ellis."

The film though was never intended to be a documentary, or even a dramatized version of the known facts. "You can't call it a work of fiction," says Newell. "But you can absolutely call it a work of the imagination. That doesn't mean we didn't try and be as authentic as possible, it's simply that we weren't trying to make a piece of historical anthropology. I quite deliberately used the lens of 30 years to look back through and I think it would have been pointless not to put the case and the events that led up to it in some sort of perspective. Here was this extraordinary paradox of someone who desperately wanted to join society and yet rebelled against the strictures of that society."

"It's a story of mistaken ideals, mistaken dreams and confused aspirations. But, in essence, it's about sex and more particularly what happens when one surrenders oneself completely to a relationship that is only sexual. These people cast

themselves loose and they drowned. What I tried to do was use the historical side of the story as a skeleton for the whole thing in order to explain why those events took place then and why they could not take place today."

For the part of Ellis, Newell cast Miranda Richardson, who had never appeared in a film before and was so surprised to be chosen that she almost turned it down. "I just knew she was absolutely right. I wasn't concerned with casting actors who looked like the people they were playing. In fact, Ian Holm who plays Desmond Cussen [Ruth's long-suffering protector] is 20 years older than he should be. Our only concession was to give him the same small moustache. But it's remarkable how many people have remarked on the resemblance to the real characters. Clearly the conjuring trick must have worked."

A large, red-faced, cheery man, Newell studied at Cambridge in the same batch as his fellow directors Michael Apted, Stephen Frears and Richard Eyre, then went straight to Granada on their trainee director scheme. "It was a very mixed blessing in retrospect. In many ways it taught me an awful lot, but it also taught you to regard yourself as a workhorse, which can be very dangerous. Television then tended to be very segmented in the way that writers and directors seldom had much to do with one another. I think I needed an element of collaboration. Certainly I think I did my best work when I've got it."

*Dance with a Stranger* has been sending excited ripples up and down Wardour Street since before Christmas and one suspects that Newell will be much courted by big studios in the coming months. But for the time being at least he is trying to keep his expectations on as tight a rein as possible. "I always remember Eddie Jones winning almost all the best actor awards one year. He didn't work for the next 18 months. In this business it doesn't do to presume anything."

● *Ruth Ellis: The Last Woman to be Hanged*, by Robert Hancock, has been released by Weidenfeld (£8.95 hardback, £4.95 paperback).

## Theatre

The Road to Mecca  
Lyttelton

Side by side with Athol Fugard the unsung chronicler of South African society, there is another Fugard - a poetic dramatist whose plays seem to arise more from the landscape than its people, and whose method is to pick on some enigmatic image and pursue it no matter where it may lead him.

Like *Dimetos* and *A Lesson from Aloes*, *The Road to Mecca* is the work of the poet. The image in this case is a bizarre collection of sculptures (illustrated in the Lyttelton foyer) which Fugard first saw in the Karoo village of Bethesda shortly before the suicide of the reclusive artist, Helen Martins. What were such objects doing in an Afrikaner backwater, and what was the relationship of their creator to the surrounding countryside? The play answers these questions by exploring the friendship between "Miss Helen" and a young Cape Town teacher, Elsa, so as to show the older woman finding liberation in sculpting her "Mecca" after a loveless God-fearing marriage, much to the disquiet of her devout neighbours who are now planning to dump her in an old folks' home.

To summarize the piece like that conveys absolutely nothing of its real character: as it proceeds, not with confident narrative energy, but as though Fugard were groping his way in the dark, testing each handhold, and periodically arriving at a brilliantly-lit plateau, at which point the plot moves forward another inch.

This form of composition exacts its penalties. There are times, particularly during the opening 40 minutes, when the play seems simply to be straining under a great weight. It is also one of the pieces in which Fugard appears far less



Bob Peck: a spellbinding performance

happy with dialogue than with the tirade; and if one carries away a picture from his production it is of one figure ecstatically delivering the goods while two temporarily immobilized companions await their turn.

The third figure is the village minister, Marius, and from the moment of his arrival, to get the signature that will remove Helen from Mecca, the play goes thrillingly into top gear. This is thanks partly to Bob Peck's spellbinding performance of Marius. The sight of a clergyman visiting a widow, in the shadow of a publicly-revered husband and censuring her for dabbling in aesthetic profanities, evokes irresistible echoes of Ibsen's *Ghost*. If so, Peck's Marius has all the advantages over Pastor Manders. With all the strengths and limitations of his faith, he comes over as a kind, caring friend, whose relentless flow of

solicitous advice is such that there is no way of telling until the end whether he is cunningly manipulating an embarrassing neighbour into exile, or whether he loves her.

Simultaneously the relationship between the two women redoubles in intensity: Charlotte Cornewell's Elsa, a girl with her own troubles, tongue-lashing Helen into standing up for herself; and Yvonne Bryceland, a sparrow-fraill figure in an outsize cardigan, sometimes the image of a "meek churchgoing widow", sometimes blazing into phosphorescent joy as she takes possession of her imaginative kingdom. The piece resolves in an interplay of the key images of darkness and light; magically inscribed in Douglas Heap's set, the cluttered bric-a-brac of a neglected home mingle with the glittering walls and mirrored candelabra of the city of light.

Irving Wardle

## Concerts

Bournemouth SO/  
Barshai

Festival Hall/Radio 3

Although it is almost two years since the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra were last heard in London, they chose to perform at full strength and full stretch on Wednesday only in Mahler's Fourth Symphony under their principal conductor Rudolf Barshai. It was perhaps a questionable decision in the light of a performance which only intermittently illuminated the symphonic conception.

Once Sheila Armstrong stole discreetly on to the platform during the opening bars of the finale to sing the childlike vision of Heaven in the verses, with a beguiling ingenuousness that has long been hers to command, Mahler's purpose approached some kind of fulfillment. What I missed, however, was any overall relationship by which this vocal movement makes explicit the poetic idea adumbrated in the others.

To some extent, it was a case of the conductor needing to think more in paragraphs instead of in sentences. Too often the players gave the impression of picking their way from one episode to another without the sense of a broader symphonic sweep that looks to each movement's resolution as soon as it has begun, and to the finale as the culmination of the rest. The balance of instrumental texture was at times perverse, the phrasing sketchy or prosaic.

A redeeming feature was Mr Barshai's refusal to linger sentimentally in the *rueful* third movement, though there was a recurring blandness of character in this and its

forerunners; as there also was in the compact ensemble supporting Alicia de Larrocha in Mozart. Her account of the last and in some ways the most enigmatic piano concerto, K595 in B flat, was both thoughtful and personal.

Most of all she communicated a strong harmonic sense, in the unexpected excursions of the first movement and the restless modulations of the second. Her solo cadenza in the finale, written out as Mozart left it, was nevertheless unusually rhetorical, as if she would balance it against the disarming simplicity of the rondo theme, to suggest that Mozart was here on the verge of something new in keyboard music which he never lived to fulfil.

Noel Goodwin

ASMF/Sillito

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Michala Petri, whose evolution from Danish child-prodigy to globe-trotting virtuoso is now complete, nevertheless remains a model towards whom children can be pointed. Listen to her, one can instruct firmly, and observe that the recorder need not be an instrument of torture, but is capable of taking its rightful place in the highest sphere of creativity.

Well, perhaps Telemann's Suite in A minor is not quite the highest sphere, but much of it is very fast and gave Miss Petri ample opportunity to display her deft fingering, inventive tonguing (where she chose to slur, rather than tongue, was itself a lesson in baroque style), swirling ornaments and miraculous breathing. Indeed, so capacious do her lungs appear to be that a career in pearl-diving is surely waiting for her.

should the allure of Telemann ever fade.

For Vivaldi's C major Recorder Concerto she used the too-telling soprano instrument. Here it became more apparent what was wrong with these performances. With her pure, vibrant tone (drifting fractionally below pitch on some notes) and the recorder's limited dynamic potential, the soloist stood in strange opposition to her own accompaniment - the richly-voiced Academy of St Martin.

Kenneth Sillito's direction of the Academy from the leader's chair was not without what the military experts might call its pre-emptive strikes, but his own solos were sweetly played and there was plenty of fervour to admire as he led his strings into the lush pastures of Suk's flat Serenade - unmistakably the music of a love-crazed teenager. Here the yearning, Straussian leaps were cloaked with some delectable glissandi, and the ardent Adagio had an opulence that belied the small number of players.

They had seemed a little ill-balanced in Handel's Concerto Grosso, Op 6 No 6. Since just two violas were available for the middle line, the last movement sounded top-heavy with all 10 fiddles playing the tune in unison. No violas at all in Rossini's String Sonata No 1, of course - here Raymond Koster attacked the eccentric double-bass solos with a finesse and vigour that stole the show.

Richard Morrison

● Emil Gilels has been obliged by illness to withdraw from his scheduled Festival Hall recital on Sunday afternoon. He is replaced by Nikolai Petrov, in a programme of Bach, Mozart and Schubert.

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84	British Airways	0.00	0.00	84	British Airways	0.00
85	British Airways	0.00	0.00	85	British Airways	0.00
86	British Airways	0.00	0.00	86	British Airways	0.00
87	British Airways	0.00	0.00	87	British Airways	0.00
88	British Airways	0.00	0.00	88	British Airways	0.00
89	British Airways	0.00	0.00	89	British Airways	0.00
90	British Airways	0.00	0.00	90	British Airways	0.00
91	British Airways	0.00	0.00	91	British Airways	0.00
92	British Airways	0.00	0.00	92	British Airways	0.00
93	British Airways	0.00	0.00	93	British Airways	0.00
94	British Airways	0.00	0.00	94	British Airways	0.00
95	British Airways	0.00	0.00	95	British Airways	0.00
96	British Airways	0.00	0.00	96	British Airways	0.00
97	British Airways	0.00	0.00	97	British Airways	0.00
98	British Airways	0.00	0.00	98	British Airways	0.00
99	British Airways	0.00	0.00	99	British Airways	0.00
100	British Airways	0.00	0.00	100	British Airways	0.00

## BUILDING AND ROADS

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THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Bond washing, pensions, CGT - a Budget hat trick?

The Inland Revenue yesterday followed up the central banks' mid-week strike against the dollar by mounting its own concerted attack on the gilt-edged market.

In terms of economies of scale, Britain's tax men won hands down. It took a couple of billions of dollars disbursement to rock the dollar; the Inland Revenue pulverized the market with a single sheet of paper. Specifically, the Chancellor has decided to outlaw bond washing, a laundering technique which is already costing the Exchequer £300 million a year in lost revenue and promised to cost a great deal more as more people found their way to the Throgmorton Street washeteria.

In a virtuoso exercise of lateral thinking, the City last night forecast radical reform of capital gains tax and the future taxation of pension funds. Gilt-edged have enjoyed favourable CGT tax treatment relative to equities on two counts; income can be converted into capital and they are exempt from capital gains tax after one year.

By blocking the loophole which enables income to be changed into capital, the Revenue brings the income streams on gilts into line with equities. A major overhaul of CGT would presumably be aimed at fiscal neutrality.

A similar argument applies to the taxation of pension funds. Taxing pension funds at, say, 10 per cent would still leave a hefty income differential between their rate and the 37½ per cent levied on insurance funds.

Bond washing the Inland Revenue defines it, is the practice whereby income on fixed interest securities, basically gilts, is converted into capital. It then becomes chargeable to CGT, a far more lenient tax than income tax, especially for higher rate tax payers. Substantial amounts of tax can be avoided through this device, since gilt-edged securities are exempt from CGT if held for more than a year and a day.

Typically, an investor buying a stock would hold it for over a year and take two dividends which would be liable to income tax. As the third dividend payment approached, and the price of the stock rose to reflect the accruing dividend, investors could sell and take the dividend reflected in the price, by proxy. A neat profit results, which in many cases is tax free because of the privileged tax position of gilt-edged stocks.

Although the new legislation will not

come into effect until the end of February 1986, the gilt-edged market reacted immediately to the menace. Dealings did not open until 11 in the morning, one-and-a-half hours later than usual so that jobbers would have time to work out the price implications.

Now coupon and index-linked stocks which have comparatively little to offer by way of income anyway scored immediate gains. Index-linked stocks rose by some £2, and the Government Broker sold out the remains of his long index-linked tap, Treasury 2½ per cent index-linked 2013, at £90. The stock was issued a week ago at £88. Is the way now also open for the Bank of England to issue juggernaut loads of index-linked stock and thereby cut the Government's interest bill by a huge figure? The countervailing attraction of high coupon long dated stock was certainly reduced at a stroke. They dropped by nearly a pound.

Traditionally, there is a distinction in the London gilt-edged market between short dated stocks and longs. Shorts have always been quoted in a way which splits off the capital value of the stock from the interest element, which accrues daily. Longs have always been traded with the dividend element included in the price.

Henceforth, both categories of stock will probably be quoted in terms of "clean" prices which distinguish clearly between interest and capital elements. In other words, the long-dated stocks end will now accrue dividends, a change which it is argued reduces the volatility of prices.

The latest moves should help bring London into line with other world bond markets, all of which quote government securities in clean prices. Given sterling's near parity with the dollar, the Revenue's move is yet another shift in the direction of harmonisation particularly with New York.

The principal sufferers are likely to be London's large stockbroking firms, who stand, according to one estimate, to lose up to a quarter of their income from gilt-edged operations with the abolition of bond washing.

But it has been good while it lasted, for clients of course as well as brokers. Not of course as good as it was in the late fifties when bond washing was the most magnificent, legitimate racket ever devised in the history of the Stock Exchange. In those heady years the cost to the Inland Revenue ran into billions.

## White Paper with blood on it

An influential slice of the City, in the shape of a pressure group known as the City Capital Markets Committee, has taken a carving knife to last month's White Paper on Financial Services. That document sets out the Government's proposals for a new system of regulating financial services, from stock market to doorstep insurance salesmen. It is designed as the basis of legislation which would take effect at about the same time as the stock market opens its hallowed portals to outsiders.

The City Capital Markets Committee is led by Nicholas Baring, a merchant banker, and includes Ronald Artus of the Prudential, Ralph Quartano of the Post Office pension fund, such leading stock market figures as John Robertson of Wedd Durlacher and Mordaunt and Richard Westmacott of Hoare Govett, and Exco International's highly sceptical chief executive, John Gunn.

Without the active support of these men and others like them, the new system will be well nigh unworkable. True they formally endorse the White Paper's proposals; they have simply chosen to tear apart several of its most fundamental proposals.

By way of a preamble, they come down firmly in favour of a single regulatory body to cover the whole securities and

investments field, including such collective investments as insurance policies and unit trusts. The White Paper left open the question of whether there should be a separate body for the collective side.

The Committee goes on to reject many of the suggested exclusions from the future Act's scope. These cover self-managed investment trust companies and the investment management of insurance and pension funds. "It would be wholly unacceptable if investment managers not requiring authorization operated in a way which would incur penalties if followed by those who are authorized," the Committee says.

The submission then dismisses the White Paper's attempts to eliminate conflicts of interest, making the interesting claim that "conflicts of interest are inherent in firms offering diversified financial services". The Committee shies away from the logical alternative, which would be to outlaw such firms in the first place.

Its deadliest fire is reserved for the White Paper's lack of teeth. It argues that the City Takeover Panel should be given statutory backing, that the new Securities Industry Board should have the power to fine transgressors, and that the SIB should be able to require the Department of Trade and Industry to investigate cases of alleged fraud.

## Whitehall admits Opec links

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

The Government has admitted that it keeps in regular contact with member states of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to determine how its decisions affect North Sea prices, government oil revenues, and United Kingdom exports.

This emerged in evidence to the Commons Select Committee currently examining the government proposal to provide a further £25 million of aid for the state oil trading operation, the British National Oil Corporation. BNOC was given £45 million last autumn to cover its losses from buying in North Sea crude at contract prices and having to sell it at spot market rates \$2 a barrel lower.

The Foreign Office said that staff posted to oil producing states were expected to regard oil issues "as among their principal tasks".

The Foreign Office added that sharp oil price changes were not in the interests of consumer or producer nations because they tended to destabilize the world financial system.

The Treasury, also admitted yesterday that the activities of Opec were being monitored.

On the Rotterdam spot market North Sea crude oil prices continued to fall slowly yesterday with deals being struck for delivery in one month at around \$27.15 a barrel, a fall of 20 cents on the opening price. The falling spot market prices increase BNOC's losses and yesterday, Opec members said that they were now encountering "some difficulty" in selling very light crude oils at new lower prices and that pressure was emerging for a further price cut.

## MPs criticize 'optimistic' spending plans

The all-party Treasury and Civil Service Committee had questioned the Government's public expenditure plans. In a report on the January public expenditure White Paper, published yesterday, it concludes that next year's plans are likely to be overshoot while targets for later years look optimistic.

The committee, chaired by Mr Terence Higgins, says that the £3 billion reserve for 1985/86 is likely to prove inadequate. The pressures to push spending above the Government's £132 billion target will come from public sector pay, the effects of the unwinding of the miners' strike, and the local authorities.

In later years, public sector pay and local authority spending will continue to push spending above target, the committee says, while the Treasury appears to be making an unrealistically low assumption about the likely rise in benefits expenditure on the unemployed.

## MARKET SUMMARY

## STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	981.1(+0.9)
FT-A All Share	N/A
FT Govt Securities	80.56(+0.34)
FT-SE 100	1258.7(+0.9)
Bargains: 25,013	
Dataseam USM	109.02(+0.10)
New York	
Dow Jones	1278.48(-2.54)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12,321.92(+34.54)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1375.25(-12.37)
Amsterdam	198.8(-1.3)
Sydney: AO	792.3(+5.5)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1173.8(+3.0)
Brussels	
General	242.80(+6.74)
Paris: CAC	201.5(-1.0)
Zurich	
SKA General	336.40(-0.40)

## GOLD

London fixing:	
am \$290.50pm-\$287.75	
close \$288.50-\$289.00	(286-288.50)
New York \$287.65	
Comex (latest)	

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Brewmaker	34 +6
Zygal Dynamics	30 +5
Newman Ind.	24 +4
Botton Textile	20 +3
Offield Insp.	135 +20
Sangers	45
Breville Europe	18 +2
Cluff Oil	53 +5
Norfolk Cap.	25 +2
J. Bibby	275 +20
Flatners	59 +4
Regellan Props	92 +6
Connells Est.	106 +6
Harold Ingram	80 +5
Hunting Gibson	91 +5
FALLS:	
Burnett & Hall	70 -65
Nova	21 -5
Telefusion	33 -6
Star Comp	35 -3
Steinberg Op	58 -5
York Trailer	31 -2
Sutcliffe	32 -2
Strong & Fisher	142 -12
Johnson, Matthey	71 -4
Shiloh	39 -2

## CURRENCIES

London:	
\$: \$1.0827 (-0.0073)	
DM: 3.5130 (-0.00117)	
Sfr: 3.0825 (-0.0070)	
FF: 11.0450 (-0.0305)	
Yen: 280.80 (-0.94)	
Index: 71.3 (-0.3)	
New York:	
\$: \$1.0780	
DM: 3.3495	
Index: 153.4 (+0.4)	

## INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 14%	
3-month Interbank 14-13½%	
3-month eligible bills: 13½%-13¼%	
buying rate US:	
Prime Rate 10.50%	
Federal Funds 8¼%	
3-month Treasury Bills 8.48-8.44	
Long bond 94¼(94¼) yield	

## Shares plunge as Burnett reveals debt measures

By Philip Robinson

Shares of Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings, Britain's principal private coal mining group, plunged yesterday as the group announced it was seeking the co-operation of its main bankers to reduce debts.

The latest accounts, published 11 months ago, show that debts repayable on demand had soared from £8.2 million to £32.6 million. Analysts say the miners' strike would have sharply increased the group's total borrowings this year.

Burnett said it issued the statement only because of speculation in the stock market.

The shares had been losing ground since Tuesday. Yesterday they more than halved to 63p at one point, but recovered to 70p, down 65p on the day and 100p so far on the week.

Central to the problems is the group's ill-fated investments in Californian property. Analysts say that Burnett's exposure there totals \$100 million (£92.5 million). The whole company was valued on the stock market last night at only £27 million.

Burnett directors have declined to add to the formal statement. This repeated last November's statement of its

aim to reduce exposure to Californian property interests. At that time Mr Eric Grayson, chairman and chief executive, said: "It is hoped to achieve material progress in this regard during the second half."

The company's statement yesterday, with barely a month left of the second half of its financial year said: "This reduction is likely to take some time to achieve."

Stock market traders were saying last night that Burnett could become a bid target once the US property side had been sold.

## Hong Kong accord lifts China hopes

Lord Young, leader of the highest-level British trade delegation ever assembled, said yesterday a new chapter had opened for Sino-British trade since the Hong Kong issue was resolved last year, Mary Lee writes from Peking.

The delegation, comprising executives from 10 companies, including Babcock Inter-

national, General Electric Company, Northern Engineering Industries, Rolls-Royce and the BOC Group, expects to sign several multi-million pound contracts.

One such contract - a seven-year manufacturing agreement worth \$65.4 million (£60 million) - will be sealed on Monday between Aveling-

Barford and the Beijing Construction Dumphrick Works and the China National Automotive Industrial Import and Export Corporation for the manufacture of Aveling-Barford RD 030 off-highway dump-trucks.

Among the items the British are interested in selling to China are jet engines.

## IN BRIEF

## Fisons calls for £94.3m

Fisons, the pharmaceuticals, scientific equipment and horticulture group, has called on shareholders for another £94.3 million by way of a one-for-five rights issue at 245p. The money will be used to finance capital expenditure over the next two years and to fund acquisitions. The company has been looking to buy an American pharmaceutical business for some time, but a more likely target will be a US scientific equipment manufacturer.

Yesterday the company reported record pretax profits for the year ended December 31, 1984 of £48.3 million (£31.2 million). Turnover increased from £365.4 million to £552.6 million. A final dividend of 2.7p makes 4.5p for the year (3.75p).

Tempos, page 23.

## Euroferries buys US site

European Ferries has bought 1,300 acres of land at Denver, Colorado, for \$52 million (£47 million) and plans to develop between 10 and 15 million sq ft of offices and warehousing there over 20 years. The site, the Meridian Business Park, has been bought by TCD North, an EF subsidiary, from the Harford Insurance Group.

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe) will charge £7,500 for a permit to trade the new options contracts on eurodollars and the pound/dollar, due to start in June. Both Liffe members and non-members will be charged the fee. Early indications are that about 100 Liffe members will want to trade options out of a total membership of more than 200.

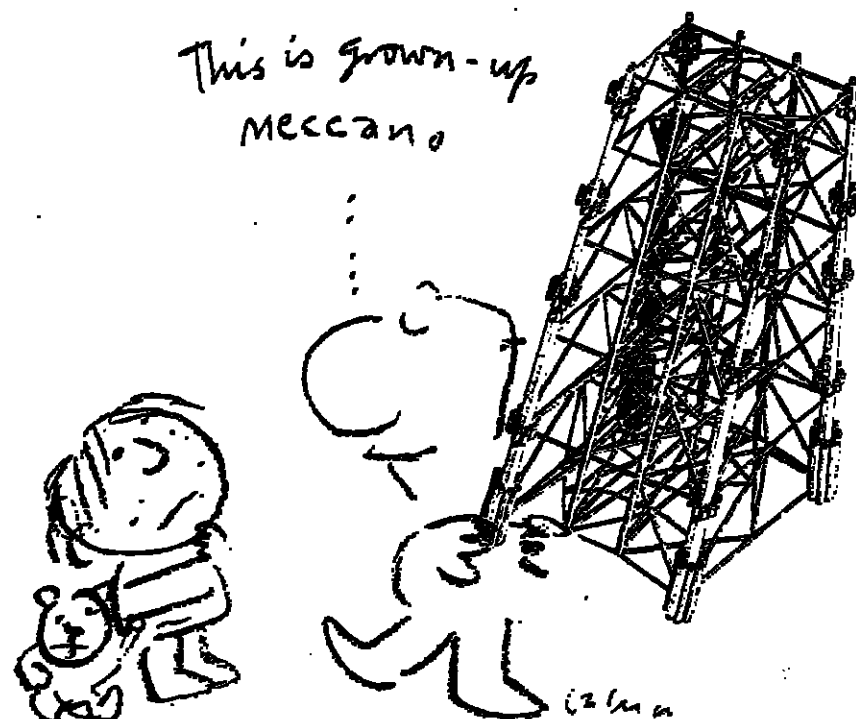
## Raglan deal

Raglan Property Trust is making a cash and shares offer of £4.55 million for six properties owned by the Glynned Group and valued at £4.25 million. Raglan will issue 56.24 million new ordinary shares to pay for the acquisition. The Glynned Group will be allotted 33.1 million Raglan shares at 8.5p each and £1.43 million in cash. It will retain 28.9 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

## Saga profit

Saga Holidays reported pretax profits of £2.6 million for the year to December 31, up from £2.4 million in the previous 16 months. Turnover fell from £90.3 million to £85.8 million.

Tempos, page 23



Turn of the century Liverpool was a powerhouse of industrial activity and invention. There, in 1901, Frank Hornby devised the system of nuts, bolts and girders that we know as Meccano.

At the same time and also on the banks of the Mersey, we were in our adolescence — and much too busy to concern ourselves with a toy like Mr. Hornby's.

Eighty-four years on, in our hundredth year in the UK, we have no such teenage inhibitions. In the North Sea, our £400 million tower of steel is one of Britain's newest oil production platforms. Built with the best of contemporary British technology and know-how, the platform's component parts were assembled offshore in just 23 days.

That's a near-record for the North Sea.

And not a bad time for the playroom floor, either.

Mobil







## STOCK MARKET REPORT

## Gilt prices slip on tax warning

By Pam Spooner and Cliff Feltham

Government stocks were the centre of stock market attention yesterday as the Inland Revenue gave warning of its clampdown on the tax avoidance practice of "bond washing" - a way of turning income on gilts into capital gains for tax purposes.

High-coupon, long-dated stocks will be worst hit by the tightening of tax rules, and gilt prices, quickly reflected the damage. In early pricing - before business actually got under way - losses of as much as £1 were shown, but by the end of the day these had been cut to about 50p and 75p.

Low-coupon and index-linked gilts gained from the news, as investors turned to them as offering less exposure to income tax. Rises of as much as £2 appeared.

Life insurers were also affected by the tax changes, because their net investment funds have made considerable use of bond washing. Assurers pay income tax - at the rate of 37.5 per cent - on certain of their monies, while funds invested for pensions, known as gross funds, are exempt from tax. Thus, bond washing has been particularly useful to the life offices.

Share prices in the sector lost much of earlier gains, which had been sparked by optimism about future sales prospects for self-employed pensions and investment contracts. Most of the double-figure rises which

followed that early cheer were reduced to single figures. Leading equities traded quietly, although the profits and dividend news from Imperial Chemical Industries helped keep the market busy. The ICI price rose 8p to 84p immediately after the lunchtime announcement, but profit-taking soon crept in, and the shares eventually closed down 9p at 847p.

Note the strength of USM-quoted Oilfield Inspection Services, up a further 20p yesterday to 135p to make a 45p gain on the week. OIS is 21 per cent owned by East of Scotland Onshore, an investment trust which is being bid for by Industrial Finance and Investment Corporation. IFICO intends to liquidate the trust and speculation is growing that it has found a buyer for the 21 per cent OIS stake who is interested in bidding for the whole company.

The FT 30 share index ended the day almost unchanged at 981.1, up 0.9. FT-SE 100 index made a similar gain, closing at 1259.7.

Burnett & Hatfieldshire crumpled on confirmation that the group is in discussions with its bankers. The share price dived from 135p to 60p at one stage, before showing a modicum of recovery and closing at 70p.

Baggeridge Brick came in for

bid rumours and rose 10p to 242p in response. Bramer, the bull bearing maker which has had a difficult time making headway since their debut.

Elsewhere among food makers and distributors, S & W Berisford continued its climb back from weakness with a 4p rise to 174p. City analysts are buying the shares again, having seen the price fall as a result of stock market concern for

Speculation centred on Ashley Industrial Trust where the shares jumped 3p to 27p compared with a 12-month low of 12p. The trust is effectively controlled by the Choullarton family which last year increased its holding from 49.7 per cent to 50.4 per cent. Ashley made a loss before tax of £269,000 last year. Its main business is plywood manufacturing, and distribution of video cassettes and films.

profitability at British Sugar and the property division. Bernard Matthews, well known for its turkey and meat products, moved higher again, up 5p to 314p. There is enthusiasm for the company's new marketing push and extension of its sales range.

On the stores pinge, Albert Fisher went to a new price peak of 131p, up 5p on the day. The shares enjoy speculative support. City men hope for a takeover bid for the fruit and vegetable wholesaler, which has grown rapidly since Mr Tony Millar took over as chairman three years ago.

Hilldown opened at a healthy 35p premium to the 145p striking price, the shares have had a difficult time making headway since their debut.

The brokers are encouraged by the benefits of rationalization now beginning to show through while the pound's weakness against the dollar is expected to flatter the second half performance.

Meyer International, the timber group, stayed at 117p, although the stockbroker, Laurie Milbank, has put a "sell" tag on the shares. Mr Adrian Goodall, analyst, reckons lower volume expectations and some erosion of margins on house building will hurt profits this year, and he has cut his forecast accordingly. The same problems affect Magnet & Southern, he says, and forecasts there have also been trimmed. Magnet shares were unchanged at 126p.

Standard Telephones & Cables recovered 8p to 200p yesterday, having been hurt by the recent rights issue and this week's profits news. But one leading broker still sees little to look forward to at the group and suggests clients should sell on any significant strength.

The steady retreat in the price of chemicals group W. Canning from its 122p peak since Brent Chemicals unloaded its stake and retired from the scene as a likely predator continued yesterday with the shares drifting further to 98p, a fall of 1p.

GKN, Britain's biggest engine

سكرا من الامل

## TEMPUS

## Profit surge of 55% inspires Fisons to call for £94m

Who needs four cylinders when you have three which are firing as well as those at Fisons? In 1984 the company powered ahead to pretax profits of £48.3 million, ahead of even the most optimistic forecasts and nearly 55 per cent up on the £31.2 million achieved last time.

The improvement came from all three divisions but perhaps more important Fison's air of confidence and purpose. It has asked shareholders for another £94.3 million by way of a one-for-five rights issue at 245p and should get a good response.

In assessing the 1984 figures it is difficult to single out any one of the business for particular practice since the improvements have been so evenly and generously spread.

Despite a sluggish performance in Britain, inspired by the Government's attention to drug prices, the pharmaceuticals division had a good year. At the heart of the profits growth was the US where sales increased by 55 per cent in dollar terms and 75 per cent after translation.

The largest contribution to the improvement in the scientific equipment division came from the acquisition of Curtin Matheson Scientific in the US. It added about £8 million in a total of £15.8 million for the year but should not be allowed to overshadow growth of 30 per cent from existing businesses.

The CMS acquisition was clearly important. It gave Fisons a significant presence in the US but more important it has allowed a diversification into the booming healthcare and diagnostic market. In addition the group will now be able to feed some of its British manufactured products into the US through CMS.

In percentage terms, the best growth came from the horticultural division. Again the US

operations led the way with the bulk peat business moving into the black and achieving price stability on the back of much improved consumer demand. Fisons will slowly expand its value-added products out of the solid California base and this in turn will bring growth.

The strong trading performance is backed by an equally solid balance sheet. Fisons moved into a net debt position during the year of £55 million, although this was due entirely to acquisitions with related borrowings and currency translation. Trading cash flow was neutral, but sufficient to cover capital spending of £27 million.

After the rights issue the picture will look healthier, in the short term. The new cash will be used to meet the capital spending of £50 million over the next two years and more significantly to finance acquisitions.

Fisons has long been seeking a US pharmaceuticals company. Present prices tend to inhibit such a move and acquisitions in the scientific equipment sector are more likely. The emphasis here will be on manufacturing to complement CMS's activities and bring margin improvements.

Acquisitions still play second fiddle to organic growth, however. In the Fisons philosophy serving to accelerate rather than provide improvements. The company still has sufficient opportunities to expand markets for its existing drugs to provide that growth until new products are introduced. Similarly, both the scientific equipment and horticulture divisions have internal growth prospects.

Profits of approaching £70 million do not look unreasonable for 1985, and although some would say that longer term Fisons becomes more of a high risk-high reward investment, the company's recent

record must allow many fears. In 1984 earnings benefited from a lower-than-expected tax charge which will not be repeated but even allowing for this the rating is far from demanding.

## Saga Holidays

With its disastrous venture into general package holidays through the purchase of Laker Holidays now no more than an unhappy memory, Saga Holidays has been able to concentrate on what it does best, providing holidays for the over 60s.

The benefits of pursuing this niche market are plain to see with preliminary pretax profits on a like for like basis up from £1.4 million to £2.6 million. The key to this success has been the US which contributed 44 per cent of profits, up from 12 per cent, yet only accounts for 30 per cent of turnover.

Saga's venture into the US, using the same formula as in Britain, has the hallmarks of being a lasting success. The operation got off to a very nervous start when it was launched but the strength of the dollar has helped enormously.

Saga has not been slow to point out the benefits of a holiday in Europe to the North Americans and has reaped the benefit.

The US success more than compensated for a dull British market and in the current year the performance is likely to be repeated.

The early strength of holiday bookings in Britain has tailed off and although still ahead of last year will show little overall growth. However, margins are holding up and linked with the US performance and good improvements in cruises and long haul holidays, profits in 1984/85 could approach £4 million.

## NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

## W. R. Grace Overseas Development Corporation

5% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of April 1, 1966 providing for the above Debentures, said Debentures aggregating \$750,000 principal amount have been selected for redemption on April 1, 1985 through operation of the Sinking Fund at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date, as follows:

Outstanding Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M" bearing the distinctive numbers ending in any of the following two digits:

09 10 21 22 23 35 40 42 45 47 53 54 71 78 81 87 95 96

Also Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M" bearing the following serial numbers:

1266 3066 4866 5566 5866 9966 11366 11866 12466 12766 13066 13666 14266 14566

Payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of the above Debentures with coupons due October 1, 1985 and subsequent coupons attached at the main offices of any of the following: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 30 West Broadway, New York, New York 10015; Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in Brussels, Frankfurt am Main, London and Paris; Algemeene Bank Nederland N.V. in Amsterdam; Credito Italiano in Milan; and Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A. in Luxembourg. Payments at the office of any paying agent outside of the United States will be made by check drawn on, or transfer to a United States dollar account with a bank in the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York. Any payment made by transfer to an account maintained by the payee with a bank in the United States may be subject to reporting to the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and to backup withholding at a rate of 20% if payees not recognized as exempt recipients fail to provide the paying agent with an executed IRS Form W-9, certifying under penalties of perjury that the payee is not a United States person or an executed IRS Form W-9, certifying under penalties of perjury that the payee's taxpayer identification number (employer identification number or social security number, as appropriate). Those holders who are required to provide their correct taxpayer identification number on Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 and who fail to do so may also be subject to a penalty of \$50. Please therefore provide the appropriate certification when presenting your securities for payment. Coupons due April 1, 1985 should be detached and collected in the usual manner.

On and after April 1, 1985 interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures selected for redemption.

The current conversion price of the Debentures is \$57.32 per share of Common Stock of W. R. Grace & Co. The right to convert the Debentures called for redemption shall expire at the close of business on March 22, 1985.

W. R. GRACE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Dated: March 1, 1985

## ICI in 1984

## Profits over £1 billion in record year.

The Board of Directors of Imperial Chemical Industries PLC announce the following trading results of the Group for the year 1984 subject to completion of the audit, with comparative figures for 1983

## ICI Group financial highlights

'Group' means ICI and its subsidiaries. '£m' means millions of pounds sterling.

	1984 £m	1983 £m
Turnover/sales to customers outside the Group	2,346	2,184
Chemicals - UK	6,474	5,264
- overseas	1,089	808
Oil	9,909	8,256
Total turnover	1,063	693
Trading profit	1,034	619
Profit before taxation	605	397
Net profit attributable to parent company, before extraordinary items	98.2p	65.3p
Earnings (before extraordinary items) per £1 Ordinary Stock	30.0p	24.0p
Dividends per £1 Ordinary Stock		

Trading results for the first quarter of 1985 will be announced on Thursday 25 April 1985.



Imperial  
Chemical  
Industries  
PLC

## Traded option highlights

The traded options market was in the doldrums yesterday, with neither business volume nor price movements showing much zest. A total number of 5,644 contracts changed hands, and no one option achieved the 1,000 contracts-traded level.

ICI claimed some attention on the day of its annual results:

937 contracts in the shares changed hands and the April series options saw 10p added to their prices.

British Telecom options retained demand, with 820 contracts traded. Beecham came into third place in the volume table, as 323 contracts changed hands.

FISONS

## ANOTHER RECORD PERFORMANCE

## Profits £48.3 million - Up 54.8%

Preliminary Results for 1984:

■ A record pre-tax profit of £48.3m (1983: £31.2m).

■ Sales up 51.2% at £552.6m, with particularly strong growth in the USA, Japan and mainland Europe. Overseas sales now account for 80% of the total.

■ Emphasis on marketing and operating efficiency increased market share and profitability in the key areas for all three Divisions.

■ Six acquisitions carried forward the Group strategy of expanding in international growth industries with strong profit records.

■ High level of research and development continued.

Fisons today is an internationally expanding and technology based company operating three core business Divisions: Pharmaceuticals, Scientific Equipment and Horticulture.

	1983 £m	1984 £m	% increase
Sales	365.4	552.6	+51.2
Group profit before taxation	31.2	48.3	+54.8
Group profit after taxation	25.1	38.0	+51.4
Earnings per share	14.4p	19.5p	+35.4

The Board is recommending a final dividend of 2.7p net (2.25p net) per Ordinary share, making a total of 4.5p net (3.75p net) for the full year; an increase of 20%.

The comparative figures set out in the preliminary results above are an abridged version of information contained in the Group's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1983 which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. An unaudited audit report was issued in respect of these financial statements.

Fisons Pharmaceutical Division is a world leader in the fields of allergy and immunology with rapidly growing sales particularly in the USA, Japan, and EEC countries. To maintain its leadership position its laboratories work at the frontiers of allergy research.

Fisons Scientific Equipment Division is the world's third largest supplier of science products and is expanding dramatically, especially in the North American healthcare market.

Fisons Horticulture Division's products are market leaders in the UK being sold both to the leisure gardener and the professional grower. The Division is also developing new markets in the USA and exports around the world.

FISONS

Horticulture  
Pharmaceuticals  
Scientific Equipment







## INDUSTRY TODAY

# Volatile dollar poses long-term threat for Britain's exporters

By David Smith

A disturbing change has taken place after years of living with a rising US currency

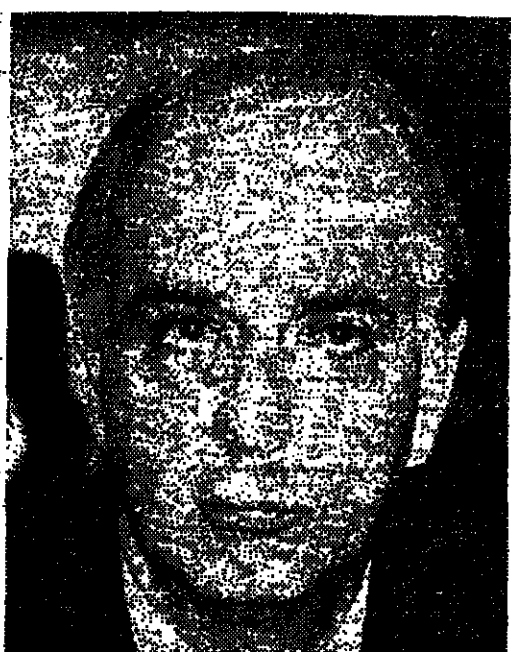
The foreign exchange markets produced a new and disturbing development this week for Britain's exporters to deal with. Having become used to a rising dollar, they were suddenly faced with one that was falling, and falling rapidly.

The immediate casualties of the dollar's sharp fall in the middle of this week, arising out of comments by the Federal Reserve chairman Mr Paul Volcker and concerted intervention by the European central banks, were the foreign exchange dealers.

However, the long-term dangers of excessive currency volatility are to trade, and to Britain's exporters.

Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, has supported the Government in its efforts to "teach the speculators a lesson."

But, after the dollar's fall, a CBI spokesman said: "It is a pity that exchange rates have been so volatile recently as this



Sir Terence Beckett, left and Mr Paul Volcker: worried about the dollar

sis that floating exchange rates are better for trade than fixed rates in that they provide for greater flexibility and speedier adjustment of rates.

The caveat usually applied to this is that where "floating" means "excessive volatility," the benefits of flexibility will be reduced, or even disappear.

The dollar's rise, most dramatically illustrated in the movement of sterling from above \$2.40 four years ago to, briefly, under \$1.05 this week, has not been steady.

However, it is clear that much of the momentum for the recent increase in British exports, particularly to the US, has been because of a realization among British companies that dollar strength is probably with us for some time and the scope is there to take advantage of it.

The danger with the sort of volatile movements we have seen on the foreign exchanges this week, unprecedented even by the volatile standards of floating rates, is that they will discourage those firms which were about to test the water.

The second and more direct danger is that to existing exporters who, while covering themselves in the normal way in the forward markets, cannot protect themselves against violent currency swings.

Leading companies like British Petroleum, with a foreign exchange dealing room which turns over more in a day than many banks, and ICI,

should be able to protect themselves fairly adequately, both through direct operations in the foreign exchange markets, more sophisticated instruments like currency options and a wide spread of interests.

A report last month by Sirpro (Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board) claimed that a disturbingly high proportion of export documen-

likely movements in exchange rates.

No British company is going to be wiped out by this week's sharp movements on the foreign exchanges.

However, if this week's developments provide an early indication of what may happen when the long-awaited dollar fall eventually does come, then that is disturbing.

Exporters can live with a higher pound, they can live with a gently declining dollar, but regular currency turbulence of the type we have seen this week will put the brakes on trade.

Around 70 per cent of British exports are still invoiced in sterling, according to Institute of Export figures. This can mean the worst of both worlds for British companies. They fail to reap the benefits of favourable exchange rate movements, while they are still subject to loss of business resulting from the uncertainties created by general currency instability.

Mr David Royce, director-general of the Institute of Export, said: "Managing directors in this country often look at the forward markets and think that it must be speculative whereas it is exactly the opposite."

It is the view of this institute that stability in exchange rates is more important than particular levels. Developing a market is a long-term business, taking three, four or five years. That can all be wiped out by violent swings in the exchange rates."

## 'Developing a market is a long-term business, taking three, four or five years'

tation completed by British firms for their banks is incorrect, leading to delays.

In January, the Centre for Physical Distribution Management reported that only a fifth of British firms were prepared to quote delivered prices for goods and were losing orders as a result.

These examples suggest that the export benefits of the pound's low level against the dollar could have been even greater. However, they also point to a lack of sophistication among exporters which, the indications are, extends to their foreign currency operations.

Anecdotal evidence from the banks suggests that a high proportion of exporters do not even use forward cover, preferring to take a gamble on the

## COMPANY NEWS

● **EAST OF SCOTLAND ONSHORE:** The board continues to reject the Industrial Finance and Investment offer and is writing to them.

● **RANKS HOVIS MCDUGALL** has invested £10 million in its flour mill at Trafford Park, Manchester, to almost double its capacity.

● **ROBERTSON RESEARCH:** Robertson's wholly owned offshoot, Robertson Research International, has signed a contract for consultancy and technical services for a petroleum assistance project in Sudan. The contract, financed through the International Development Association of the World Bank, is worth more than £6 million and is expected to last three years.

● **BOUSTED** has agreed to increase its investment in Parque Investment Co (PIC) by acquiring 51.1 per cent of the issued ordinary capital for some £340,000, which will be satisfied by the issue of 525,450 ordinary shares in Bousted. Bousted will then own 62.2 per cent of the issued capital of PIC. Bousted will also subscribe for 340,000 new ordinary shares in PIC at a cost of £355,000. Bousted's interest will then amount to 78.3 per cent.

● **THE RANK ORGANISATION:** Sir Patrick Meenan, the chairman, says in his annual statement that it would be folly to be too optimistic about the future in a highly competitive world, with continuing economic problems, high interest rates, volatile foreign exchanges and growing protectionism. Trading performance in the current year has continued to show improvement in the managed businesses and increased profitability is expected from the associate companies.

● **INDEPENDENT NEWS-PAPERS:** The pattern of trading in 1985 will be somewhat similar to that in 1984, Mr A. J. F. O'Reilly says in his annual chairman's statement. There will be substantial progress internationally and continuing difficulties within Ireland. Pressure on all Irish newspapers will be intensified if the proposed local broadcasting stations are established.

● **S & W BERISFORD:** Mr Ephraim Marquies, the chairman, says that although the year's performance was gratifying, the group's business continues to operate in difficult market conditions characterized by pressure on margins and a highly competitive environment. In his annual statement, he says there is no room for complacency, rather a determination to overcome these problems.

● **SECURIGARD GROUP:** Mr Alan Baldwin, the chairman, says in his annual statement that the group's policy is to complement its services with a sales and installation drive in the fast developing field of closed-circuit television, slow-scan monitors and perimeter defence systems. The group intends to develop by strategic acquisition and organic growth in the markets which have been identified as providing recurring revenue.

● **RAYFORD SUPREME HOLDINGS:** Mr Ray Horner, chairman and managing director, says the group is committed to a policy of expansion. In his annual statement, he reports that the group is still looking for suitable sites for new showrooms. The maintenance contracts now offered to customers have proved to be extremely popular.

● **DERBY TRUST:** Mr David Montagu, the chairman, reports that in 1984 world markets presented a rather more mixed appearance than in previous years. Only the British and Japanese markets showed any worthwhile appreciation. In his annual statement, he says the board still frames its investment policy to secure a balance between both income and capital shareholders.

● **BURCO DEAN:** Mr Michael Hinton, the chairman, says in his annual statement that the group has continued to incur losses in the early part of the current year. The sale of the appliance business and the proposed sale of Eastham will result in both the elimination of the kitchen furniture trading losses and of the interest charges associated with the group's substantial borrowings.

● **TACE:** Existing markets and products continue to show significant growth, Mr J. H. M. Mackenzie reports in his chairman's statement. New markets are being continually developed and trading in the first quarter of the current year is well ahead of the same period last year. Another successful year is confidently expected. The group maintains its commitment to product research and development and continues to devote an increasing share of resources of investment in.

● **MORACREST INVESTMENTS:** Mr J. H. Smith, the chairman, reports a record level of investment during the year, bringing the portfolio to £111 million, comprising 22 investments. In his annual statement, he says that the company will continue to support good management in companies which do not have a bias towards high technology.

● **GESTETNER HOLDINGS:** Joint chairmen Mr D. and Mr J. Gestetner say in their annual statement that with further steps being taken, the transition of the group from a product-based manufacturing and selling organisation to a broadly-based international distribution and servicing company will be largely complete. This shift in the nature of the organization, with the benefits from the painful reconstruction, reinforces their confidence in the future.

● **EVODE GROUP:** Mr Andrew Simon, the chairman, says in his annual statement the results for 1984-85 should show a return to increasing levels of profitability. During the first quarter, trading conditions have generally been satisfactory and the recent acquisitions have made a good profit contribution. The group is beginning to see some of the benefits of the cost-reduction programme.

● **EAST WORCESTERSHIRE WATERWORKS:** Mr T. Ringrose, the chairman, says in his annual statement that the policy of harnessing new technology in an effort to reduce costs has been maintained. A proportion of the capital programme has been reduced by leasing on attractive terms. The company is in a strong position and is well equipped to meet new challenges with confidence.

● **EDINSFORD INVESTMENTS:** Mr D. W. Duguid, chairman reports that a receiver was appointed to the subsidiary, Oric Products International, on January 31. In his annual statement, he says he hopes that the receiver will continue to trade and will salvage sections of the business which it felt have potential.

## THE SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY

109 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5HN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 102nd Annual General Meeting of the Members of The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society will be held in the Central Hotel, Gordon Street, Glasgow, on Wednesday, 27th March, 1985, at 12.15 p.m. to approve the Accounts, Balance Sheet and Reports of the Directors and Auditors, to re-elect Directors and to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.

A Special Resolution will be proposed which will have the effect of altering Regulation 49 of the Society's Regulations to read:

"The Directors shall be entitled to receive remuneration for their services as Directors at such a rate per annum for each Director and such an additional amount for the Chairman as the Directors shall from time to time consistent with any statutory limits decide, calculated in respect of the period for which each Director shall have held office during the year in respect of which remuneration is to be computed but the total remuneration for services as Directors shall not exceed £80,000 per annum together with such additional remuneration as shall be fixed by the Society in General Meeting and such remuneration shall be deemed to accrue from day to day. The Directors may apportion such remuneration among themselves as they think fit. The Directors shall also be paid all reasonable travelling and other expenses incurred by them either in attending Meetings of the Directors, Committees of the Directors, General Meetings of the Society, or otherwise, in connection with the business of the Society."

The actual resolution to be proposed can be inspected and prints of the Society's Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet and Directors' Report can be obtained by Members at the Head Office of the Society or at any of its Branch Offices.

A Member of the Society entitled to attend and vote at any General Meeting is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a Member of the Society) to attend and vote instead of him. Proxies must be lodged at the Head Office of the Society not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the Meeting.

The attention of Members wishing to attend is drawn to Regulations 5, 23 and 24 of The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society Act 1952.

By Order of the Board, C. G. KIRKWOOD, Secretary.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase any securities. The new preference shares, new ordinary shares and warrants referred to herein have been admitted to the Official List by the Council of The Stock Exchange.

## R. E. A. HOLDINGS plc

(Registered in England No. 671099)

Rights Issue of 413,330 units at 650p per unit

1,653,320 9 per cent cumulative preference shares of £1 each ("new preference shares"), 413,330 ordinary shares of £1 each ("new ordinary shares") and 413,330 warrants are being offered for subscription to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 1st February 1985 in units of one new ordinary share, four new preference shares and one warrant for every 9 4/9 per cent cumulative preference shares of £1 each or 9 ordinary shares of £1 each then held.

Copies of the listing particulars published in connection with the rights issue and containing details of the new preference shares and of the warrants are available in the Extel Statistical Services. Copies of the listing particulars may also be obtained during normal business hours today and tomorrow from the Company Announcements Office of The Stock Exchange and on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 22nd March 1985, from—

<b>R. E. A. Holdings plc,</b> The Old Rectory, 29, Martin Lane, London EC4R 0DS	<b>N. M. Rothschild &amp; Sons Limited,</b> New Court, St. Swithins Lane, London EC4P 4DU
<b>Laurence, Prust &amp; Co.,</b> Basildon House, 7/11 Moorgate, London EC2R 6AH	

1st March 1985

## Nigeria Airways Introduces "WhisperJet" Airbus A310.

This jet is quite a revolution! With an appreciable reduction in noise level, we have achieved a more peaceful and noiseless environment which our passengers love so much. Some just relax and catch that deserving nap.

The business executive takes the time out to plan his business strategies while others just sit back and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere. More A310s in our fleet means more flight opportunities, daily, for our numerous travellers. We fly to more destinations inside

Africa than any other airline.

Not only that, you can always expect the normal warm African hospitality from our crew, in addition to a choice of well prepared European menu or for the adventurous, some African dishes.

# NIGERIA AIRWAYS

No 1 in Africa.























# Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davale

## BBC 1

- 6.50 **Coastal A.M.**  
6.55 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Nick Ross. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; regional news, weather and traffic at 7.57, 7.57, 7.57 and 8.27; sport at 7.57, 7.57 and 8.27; the morning newspapers at 7.57 and 8.27; pop video review at 7.57; plus, Lynn Faulds Wood's consumer report; Glyn Worsnip's diary of the past week; Steve Blackwell previews weekend events; shopping advice from Glyn Christian; and Alan Titchmarsh's phone-in.
- 9.30 **Coastal**. 10.30 **Play School**. (r). 10.50 **Coastal**.
- 12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Maura Stuart. The weather details come from Michael Fish. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.
- 1.00 **Pebble Mill at One** includes Peter Seabrook demonstrating the right way and the wrong way of sowing seeds. 1.45 **Check-a-Block**. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r). 2.00 **Coastal**.
- 2.15 **Racing from Newbury**. The St Paul and Section Young Chasers Qualifier (2.30); the National Hunt Chase (3.00); and the Juveniles Steeplechase (3.30). 3.48 Regional news (North London).
- 3.50 **Play School**, presented by Brian Jameson with guest, Kate Copinger. 4.10 **Jackanory**. Bernard Hill and Rachel Nelson with part five of *The Hollow Land*. 4.25 **Finders Keepers**. The final game of the computerized quiz.
- 4.50 **Newsworld Extra**. Paul McDowell reports from Chester. 5.00 **Barbarians and Noble Slaves** have been training for next week's World Ice Skating Championships. 5.00 **The Secret Garden**. Episode three and Mary at last finds the door in the wall (r). (Covers).
- 5.30 **Fridays People**. Mike Smith presents a report from New York on the Night of a Hundred Stars and reviews the new Joan Collins video film, *Cartier Affair*. There is also a day in the life feature on Paul Nicholas and Sarah Greene reports on the Phil Collins series of concerts.
- 6.00 **News** with Nicholas Witchell and Jeremy Paxton.
- 6.35 **London Place**.
- 7.00 **Wogan** chats to Selma Scott, Cyril Smith, Arthur C. Clarke, Lionel Fanthorpe, Bonnie Langford, Victor Spinetti and Langford to Big Sound Authority.
- 7.40 **One Out, One In**. Paul Daniels introduces another six contestants who have to identify which picture, piece of music or word is the one out of place.
- 8.10 **Starkey and Hatch**. The two policemen discover the twilight world of illegal immigration when they investigate the murder of a Mexican garment worker (r).
- 8.30 **News** with Julia Somerville.
- 9.25 **Miss Marple: A Murderer is Announced**. Part two of the Agatha Christie mystery and Miss Marple's premonition that there will be another murder is proved to be correct. The final episode is tomorrow night (Covers).
- 10.20 **Oliver**. The second of the celebrated actor (see Choice).
- 11.20 **Film: Standstill** (1974) starring David Essex, Adam Faith and Larry Hagman. The sequel to *That'll Be the Day* with Essex now a successful rock star and Faith as his manager who finds life at the top takes its toll in a number of ways. Directed by Michael Apted.
- 1.05 **Weather**.

## tv-am

- 6.15 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.30 and 9.00; exercises at 8.50 and 9.00; consumer advice at 7.15 and 8.00; Popeye cartoon at 7.25; pop video at 7.54; Jani Benet's postbag at 8.15; television highlights at 8.40. The guest is Rolf Harris.

## ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 **Thames news headlines**. 9.30 **For Schools**: the natural history of familiar places. 9.47 **Coping with a mine roof cave-in**. 10.09 **Care of the feet**. 10.19 **First Year German**. 10.48 **Memories**. For the hearing impaired. 11.05 **The ways in which different animals move**. 11.22 **War reporting**. 11.39 **The different diets of China**.
- 12.00 **Emma and Grandpa** (r). 12.10 **Rainbow**. Learning with puppets (Oracle). 12.30 **Understanding the Under 12s** presented by Anna Ford. 12.30 **Whitefield School Centre** for the mentally handicapped and the Richards Croydley School for the disabled are featured.
- 1.00 **News at One**. 1.20 **Thames News**.
- 1.30 **Film: Amsterdam Affair** (1968) starring Wolfgang Kieling as Inspector Van Der Valk, having suspicions about the guilt of a man who has been arrested for the murder of his former mistress. Directed by George O'Hara.
- 3.00 **Gems**. More drama from the Covent Garden workshops of a fashion design company. 3.25 **Thames news headlines**. 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**.
- 4.00 **Rainbow**. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.10. 4.20 **The Moonmice**. 4.25 **How Dora and Steptoe** comedy. 4.50 **Freemite**, with Mick Robertson and Kim Goody, includes a trip on the training ship *Caroline* with members of the Southampton Sea Cadets.
- 5.15 **Blockbusters**.
- 5.45 **News**. 6.00 **The 6 o'clock Show**. Michael Aspel and his team take a lighthearted look at London life.
- 7.00 **Me and My Girl**. The last programme in the comedy series starring Richard O'Sullivan as Simon Harpin, this week having holiday plan trouble. He wants to go to the Isle of Wight; his daughter to Blackpool; and his girlfriend to Barbados (Oracle).
- 7.30 **The Practice**. Drama serial set in a modern medical centre in the north of England (Oracle).
- 8.00 **The Miners' Strike**, presented by Brian Walden and Jonathan Dimbleby. Three programmes assess the significance of the strike for the country beginning with:
- 8.05 **The View from the Coalfields**. Jonathan Dimbleby with striking miners in Yorkshire and with working miners in Nottinghamshire. Appearing on this programme are Michael Eaton and Arthur Weir (r).
- 9.05 **The Strike and the Nation**. Brian Walden examines how deep are the scars left by the anger and violence which have accompanied the miners' strike.
- 10.00 **News at Ten** followed by London news headlines.
- 10.30 **Learning the Lessons**. Brian Walden chairs a discussion on the implications of the strike between Neil Kinnock, David Owen and Norman Tebbit.
- 11.15 **Snooker**. The second semi-final of the Dux British Open, from the Assembly Rooms, Derby.
- 12.15 **Freeze Frame**. Kiss, the American rock band, on video and in conversation.
- 12.40 **Night Thoughts** from the Bishop of Durham.



Patience Pumphrey: Just Another Day (BBC 2, 9pm)

## BBC 2

- 6.55 **Open University: Last of the Libraries**. 7.20 **Weekend Outlook**. Ends at 7.25.
- 9.00 **Coastal**.
- 9.30 **Daytime on Two**. Science-electronics. 9.52 **Rachel** is missing at the fair ground. 10.15 **Maths**: sequences. 10.30 **How a cartoon strip cookery book was born**. 11.00 **Poetry and pop**. 11.22 **The argument over the development of London's docklands**. 11.44 **Unforeseen problems for a young school leaver who goes to live with his sister**. 12.05 **Part six of the series on the capacities of microcomputers**. 12.30 **How a cartoon strip cookery book was born**. 11.00 **Poetry and pop**. 11.22 **The argument over the development of London's docklands**. 11.44 **Unforeseen problems for a young school leaver who goes to live with his sister**. 12.05 **Part six of the series on the capacities of microcomputers**. 12.30 **How a cartoon strip cookery book was born**. 11.00 **Poetry and pop**. 11.22 **The argument over the development of London's docklands**. 11.44 **Unforeseen problems for a young school leaver who goes to live with his sister**. 12.05 **Part six of the series on the capacities of 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# The Queen sees a day in the life of The Times

## Historic visit ends as Royal Edition rolls off presses

Continued from page 1

editor, who disclosed that he had written almost 300,000 words on the miners' strike, and solicited her views on the dispute. "It's very sad that anything should have lasted for a year: it's terrible," the Queen replied, going on to discuss Mr Scargill's role.

It was at that moment that newspapers were shown as makers as well as reporters of news. By lunchtime the television news bulletins were reporting the Queen as blaming Mr Scargill for the strike, more of an interpretation than a report of her remarks. The editor went on television later to say that the reports were the result of a muddle, and the newspaper issued a clarifying statement.

"The Queen did not, at any time, say the miners' strike was promoted by Mr Arthur Scargill. She spoke to many members of the staff about their work, including Paul Routledge, the labour editor, who has been covering the miners' strike for the last 12 months."

Mr Routledge said afterwards: "The Queen said the strike was very sad. We had a discussion about the focus now being on one man but she never said the strike was promoted by Mr Scargill."

The Royal party then moved through the newsroom, and the Duke in characteristic fashion peered into a reporters' room piled high with books, leaflets and the other chaos of creation. "What's this remarkable joint?" he exclaimed with the delighted surprise of having made a slightly wicked discovery.

In the design department the Queen met regular cartoonists Mr Peter Brookes, Mr Mel Calman and Mr Barry Fantoni, and wondered from where they plucked their nightly inspiration. Miss Suzy Menkes, the fashion editor, showed her work she was preparing on a profile of Sir Norman Hartnell, and the Queen immediately looked on a photograph of her own wedding dress, disclosing that Sir Norman's lavish

embroidery had made it very heavy and hot. "When I wore it in Ceylon later, I felt like a radiator," the Queen said. In the business news department the Queen bemoaned the state of the pound, and described its currently volatile state as ridiculous. "It all happens so frightfully quickly."

The Queen and Prince Philip later took their seats at the morning editorial conference, where the forthcoming issue was discussed and shaped. They remained for the conference of senior writers, a daily event to which outsiders are rarely admitted, and whose deliberations to reach the paper's editorial view on the issues of the moment are never recorded.

When the Queen and Prince Philip returned to Gray's Inn Road in the evening it was to see the noisier, dirtier end of newspaper production - the engine room rather than the bridge of the mere ideas of earlier in the day being translated into print.

Conducted by Mr George Banyard, the paper's production manager, the Royal visitors saw the composing room, where the front page was being made up in the relative quiet of new technology.

After an informal reception in the paper's boardroom the Royal couple descended to the bowels of Gray's Inn Road where the old technology and the smells of oil, ink and warm paper still predominate.

As she watched number seven press rolled and produced before her the first copies of the Royal Edition, produced regularly for Buckingham Palace, Government offices and foreign embassies but killed by the cost of its high-grade paper in 1970, and revived for one night only.

After watching the papers make their way through the publishing room to the waiting vans, the Royal couple left bearing their personal copies of today's edition. There was a feeling, after 200 years, of some progress: Queen Victoria, it is said, would not even allow the thing in the house.



The Queen laughing with Mr Rupert Murdoch (second right), Mr Charles Douglas-Home (right) and Mr Colin Webb, joint deputy editor



The Duke of Edinburgh with Mr Charles Wilson, joint deputy editor, (centre) and Mr Murdoch and, right, her Majesty with Mr Douglas-Home (centre) and Mr Tony Norbury, executive production editor (Photographs: Harry Kerr, John Manning and Bill Warhurst)

## Mubarak initiative stumbles over PLO

By Our Foreign Staff

Prospects for Middle East peace talks in Cairo looked in doubt last night in spite of the positive response to President Mubarak's initiative from Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Israel had announced its readiness in principle to take part in talks with the US, Egypt, and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But within hours, Mr Muhammad Mithneh, a moderate member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation executive, said the PLO would not accept President Mubarak's proposal of direct peace negotiations with Israel.

The PLO has demanded that it should take part in any talks on an equal basis with other parties. The Egyptian leader told *The New York Times* this week that Palestinian members of a joint delegation would not be known members of the PLO.

President Mubarak said on Monday that he envisaged a two-stage negotiating framework: first, talks between US officials and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, to be followed by a session including Israel and other Arab parties.

In an interview with *The Washington Post* published yesterday, President Mubarak appealed to the US to lend its weight to his efforts.

But the White House said later that it was prepared to help the peace process once direct contacts had been made between the Arabs and Israel. "We are pleased to re-engage in a peace process whenever the parties are ready and in whatever manner they deem appropriate."

In his interview, Mr Mubarak said he was encouraged by what he called increased flexibility by Israel and moderate Palestinians and by recent high-level meetings between Egyptian and Israeli officials.

"The United States cannot continue to sit with its hands folded," he said. Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Foreign Minister, said yesterday that Israel objected to Egyptian proposals to a new peace process to begin in Washington.

### THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

#### Today's events

##### Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the World Wildlife Fund International, attends an executive meeting in Gland, Switzerland, departs Heathrow 10.10.  
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends a concert at the Royal Albert Hall to mark the centenary of the Soldiers, Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, 7.20.  
Princess Michael of Kent also attends 7.10.  
Princess Anne opens the new Royal Unit at St Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, 3.15; and later attends the St David's Day London Welsh celebration banquet, The Savoy Hotel, 7.10.

##### New exhibitions

Paintings and drawings by John

##### Exhibitions in progress

Portraits on Paper; MacRoberts

##### Arts Centre, Strling University

Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends March 6)

Paintings by Anthony Whishaw; Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends March 3)

Barry Cullen - glass; John Wheelodon - lustreware; Daphne Garnill - porcelain and new prints by Phil Greenwood; Long Street Gallery, 50 Long St, Tetbury, Glos; Mon to Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5.30, closed Thurs afternoon and Sun (ends March 27)

50 years of the British Council; Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvin Grove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends April 8)

Scottish Football photographs; Pier Arts Centre, Victoria St, Stranmillis; Tues to Sat 10.30 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends March 16)

Concert by the Northern Sinfonia Ensemble; Hutton Gallery, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1.05

Concert by the Clare College Choir; Cambridge University Senate House, 8

Charity Gala concert with the NCOs Symphony Orchestra; Assembly Rooms, Bath, 7.15

Concert by the English Chamber Orchestra; Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, 8

Concert by the London Sinfonietta; Durham Cathedral, 7.30

Recital by Takashi Shimizu (violin) and Gordon Back (piano); North Devon High School, School Drive, Braunton, 7.30

Concert by the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra; St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30

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#### Food prices

There should be an excellent display of quality fish over the weekend. However, flat fish are still scarce, and the best buys in this category are small whole plaice, 60p to 70p a lb, small lemon sole, £1 a lb, and best large from £1.50. The cod fishery has just started, and is good value at 70p to 85p a lb. Cod fillets range from £1.30 to £1.70 a lb, haddock fillets £1.60, and smoked haddock on the bone, £1.50, and kippers 98p. Scallops at 40p each, mussels from 45p a lb and oysters 58p each are good value.

Meat prices are stable apart from home produced lamb, which is up a penny or two on all cuts. Stable New Zealand lamb prices make it an attractive alternative and as usual many shops have it on promotion. Pork chops and boneless shoulder are a little cheaper. Some good meat buys on offer this weekend are: Fine Fare New Zealand lamb loin chops £1.28 a lb, British Home Stores rump steak £2.59 a lb, and minced beef 98p. Sainsbury's New Zealand lamb shoulder 72p, and beef topside £1.88. Tesco braising steak £1.64 a lb, and Marks and Spencer New Zealand lamb is down 20 to 35p a lb.

The earlier cold weather is still affecting vegetables. Swedes 18p to 24p a lb, turnips 25p to 30p, and Brussels sprouts, although more plentiful, should be carefully inspected. Cauliflowers are still scarce and therefore expensive at 75p to £1 each. Parsnips are a good buy as they seem to show little frost damage.

Crisp iceberg lettuce 50p to 80p each, Chinese leaves 40p to 50p a lb, cucumber 35-55p each, green and red peppers, 60-90p a lb, and avocados 25-45p each (19p at Safeway) are all good buys.

Grapefruit, from Jaffa and Cyprus from 12-25p each, oranges 9-22p each and clementines 45-55p a lb are plentiful and good. Pears at 25-45p a lb are probably a better buy than apples at present.

Some egg prices will go up by 2p a dozen at the weekend.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on taxation and benefits.

London: The FT index closed up 0.8 at 981.1

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#### Roads

Wales and West: A38: Lane closures on both carriageways between Plymouth and Exeter at Marsh Mills viaduct; also lane closures at Wembury, A418: Resurfacing on the 'Station' by-pass, Swindon; contraflow on northbound carriageway, A47: Lane restrictions at Abercromby on the Pontypridd to Brecon Rd.

The North: A49: Roadworks on Warrick St/Crown St, Warrington; local diversion; delays to southbound traffic. A66: Roadworks between North Bitts-Creta Bridge, 3 miles E of Bowes, co Durham, A58: Wigan Rd, Wetheroughton, Bolton, closed from the junction with Southfield Drive.

Scotland: A907: Resurfacing two miles W of Kircaldy; single line traffic with temporary lights. A702: Bridge damage at Carleton; single-line traffic with lights (24 hrs). A92 (City of Aberdeen): Lane closures on the Great Southern Rd, at King George VI Bridge.

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